SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Teamwork

Volume 53

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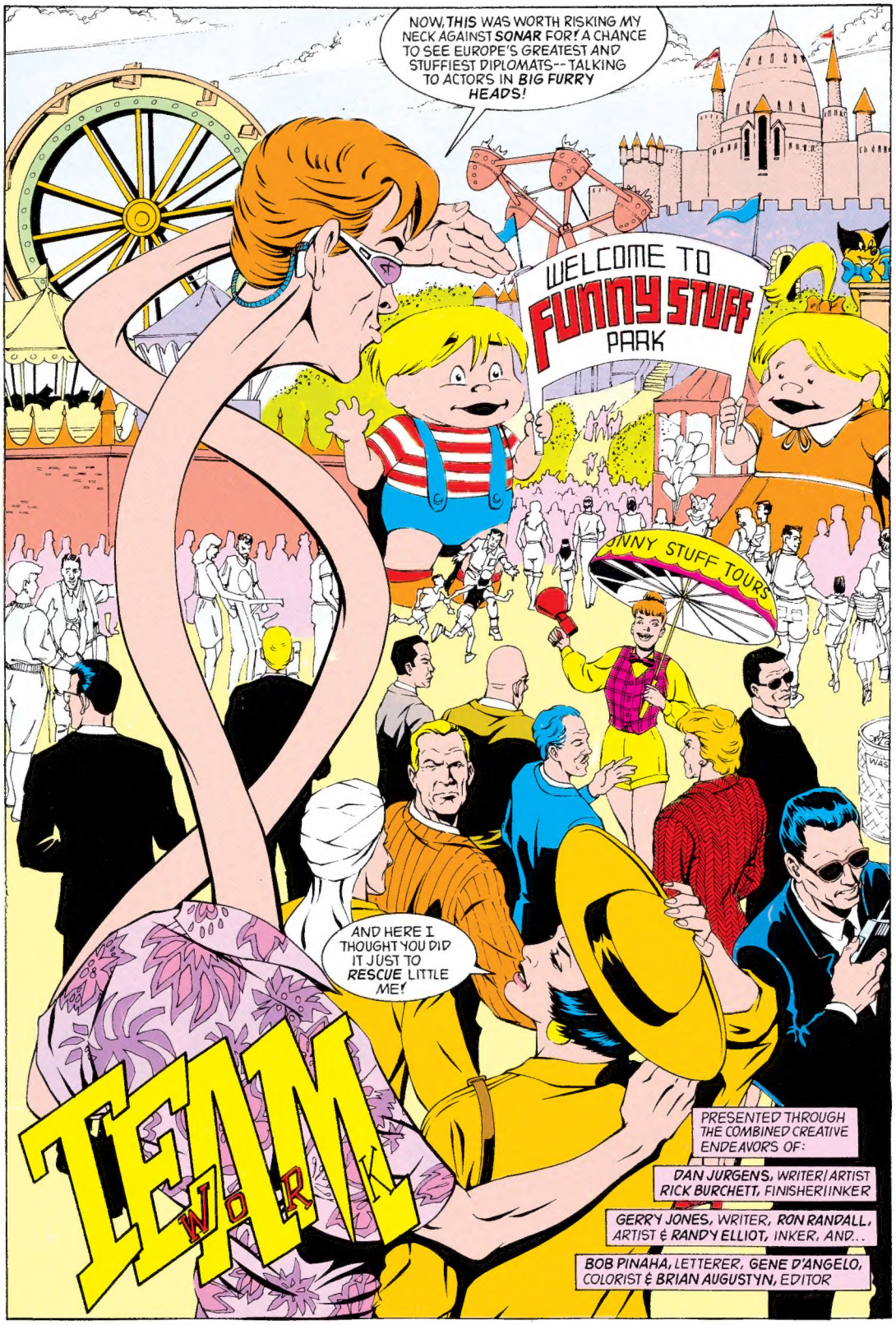
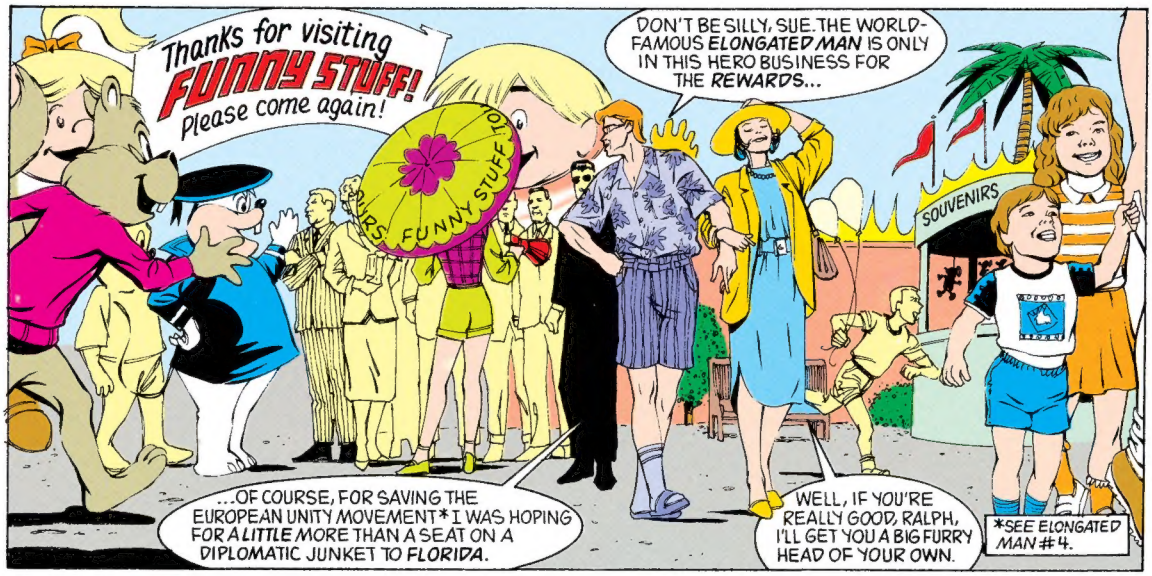
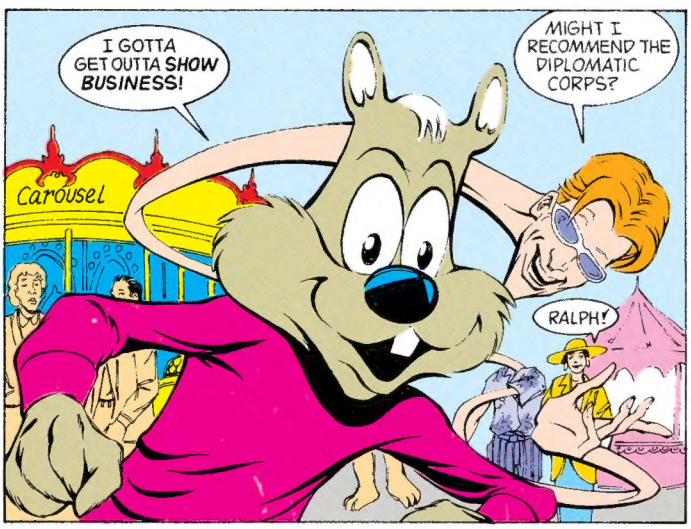

NOW, THIS WAS WORTH RISKING MY NECK AGAINST SONAR FOR! A CHANCE TO SEE EUROPE'S GREATEST AND STUFFIEST DIPLOMATS-- TALKING TO ACTORS IN BIG FURRY HEADS!
WELCOME TO FUNNY STUFF PARK
NNY STUFF TOURS
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU DID IT JUST TO RESCUE LITTLE ME!
TEAM WORK
PRESENTED THROUGH THE COMBINED CREATIVE ENDEAVORS OF:
DAN JURGENS, WRITER/ARTIST
RICK BURCHETT, FINISHER/INKER
GERRY JONES, WRITER, RON RANDALL, ARTIST & RANDY ELLIOT, INKER, AND...
BOB PINAHA, LETTERER, GENE D'ANGELO, COLORIST & BRIAN AUGUSTYN, EDITOR


Thanks for visiting FUNNY STUFF! Please come again!
FUNNY STUFF
DON'T BE SILLY, SUE. THE WORLD-FAMOUS ELONGATED MAN IS ONLY IN THIS HERO BUSINESS FOR THE REWARDS...
SOUVENIRS
...OF COURSE, FOR SAVING THE EUROPEAN UNITY MOVEMENT* I WAS HOPING FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN A SEAT ON A DIPLOMATIC JUNKET TO FLORIDA.
WELL, IF YOU'RE REALLY GOOD, RALPH, I'LL GET YOU A BIG FURRY HEAD OF YOUR OWN.
*SEE ELONGATED MAN #4.

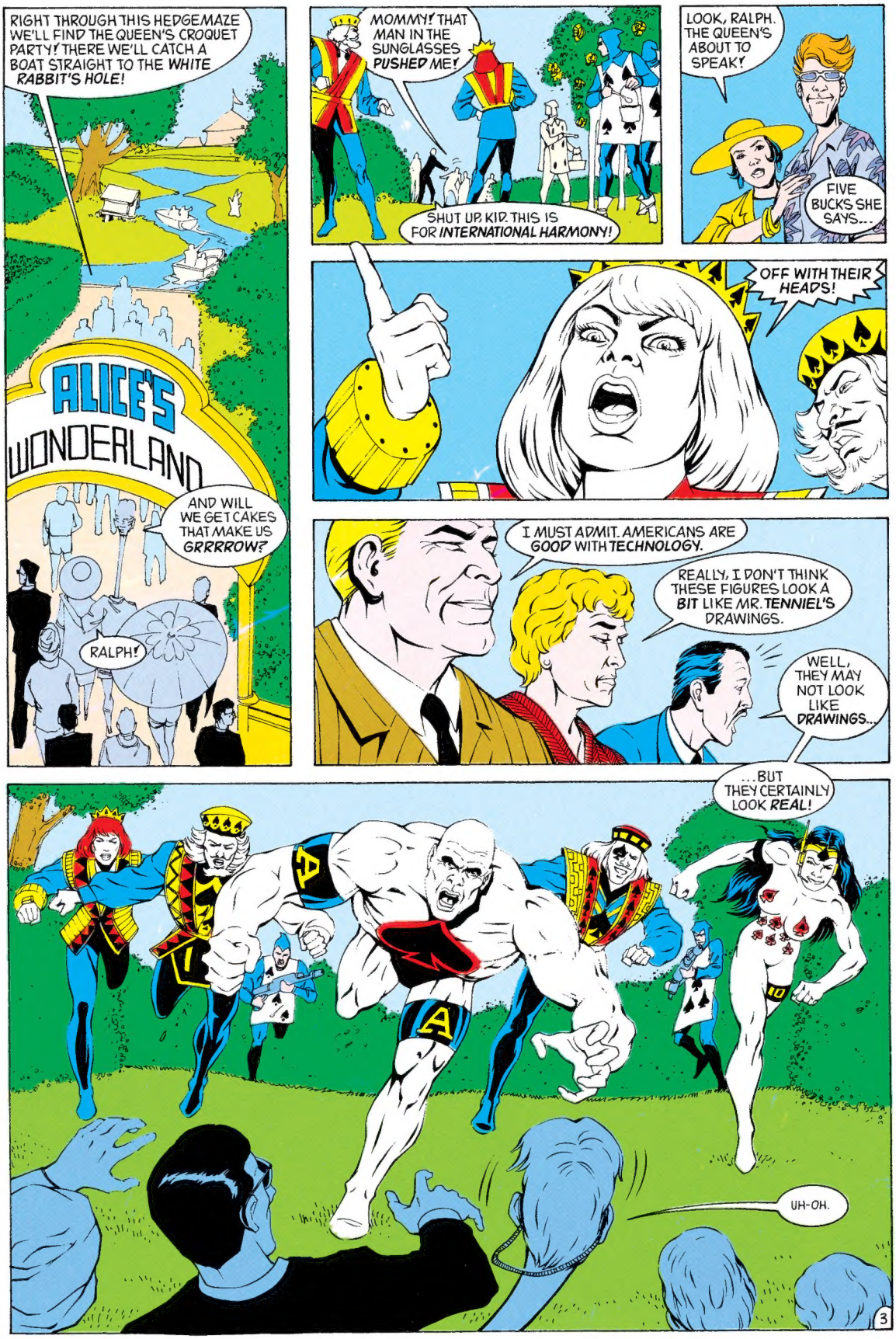
HI! I'M NUTSY SQUIRREL! ARE YOU HAPPY TODAY?
"HAPPY"?! BY SOME SHALLOW AMERICANISH IDEA OF THIS "HAPPY"?! HOW CAN WE BE HAPPY WITHOUT AGONY? WITHOUT PROFUNDITY? WITHOUT--

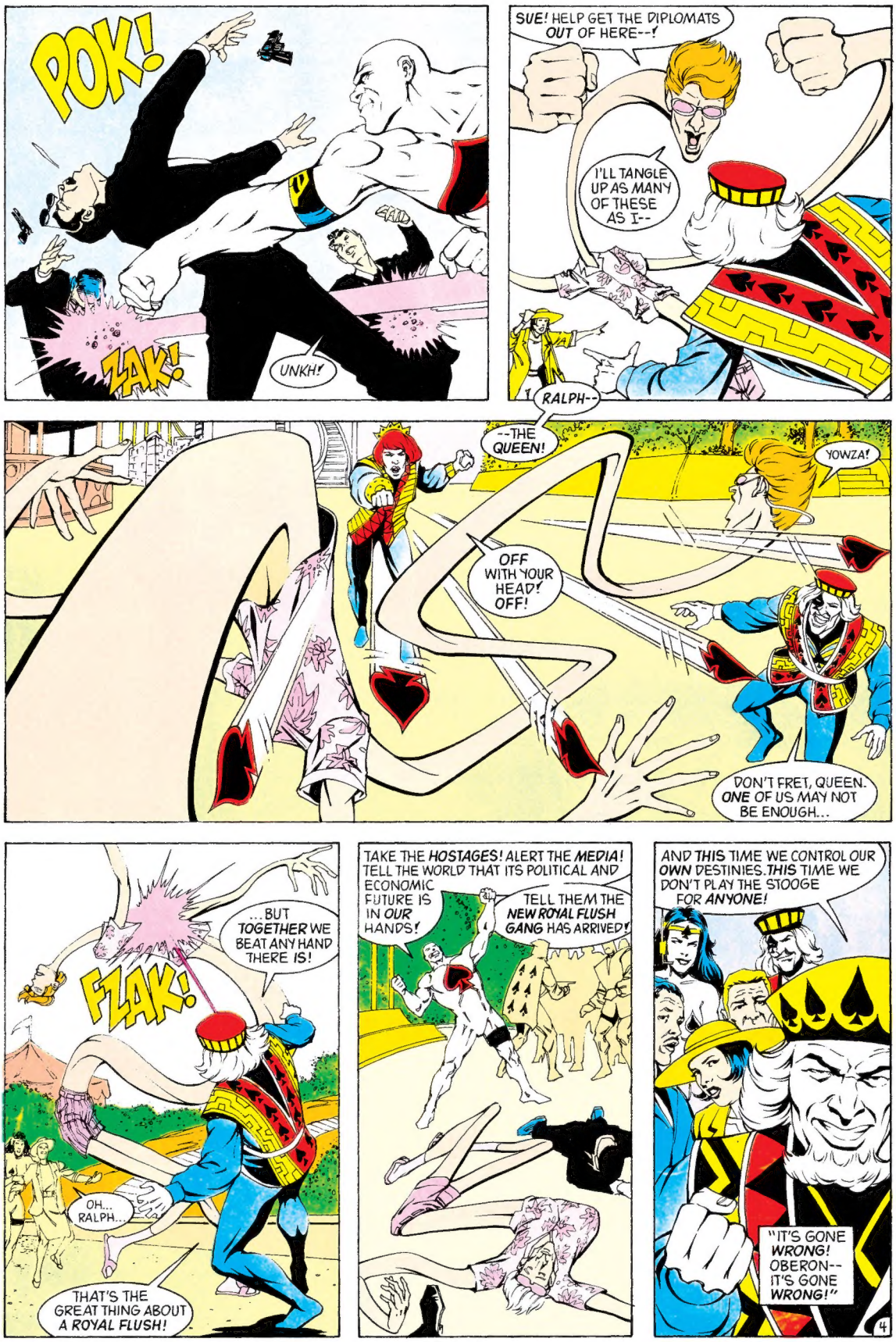
NON, NON, MONSIEUR WELTZSCHMERZ! YOU MISJUDGE THIS AMERICAN CULTURE POPULAIRE. NUTSY, 'E IS THE PULP ICON OF THE ALIENATION!
SPIRITUAL COUSIN TO FAULKNER'S POPEYE VITELLI AND BOGART'S FRED C. DOBBS, 'E IS THE SQUIRREL NOIR. THE--
FUNNY STUFF
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

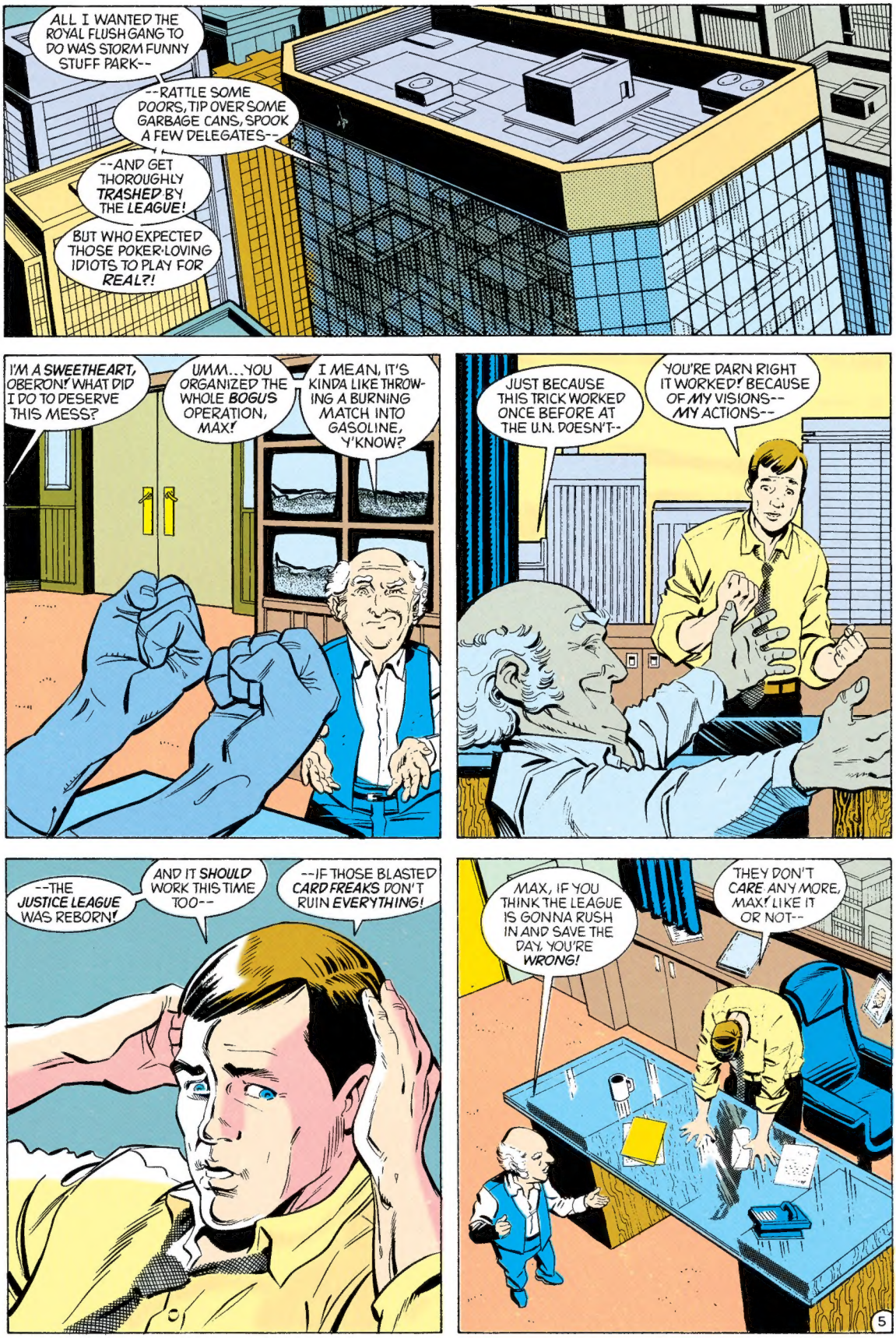
THERE NOW, DEAR. WHO'S THE LOVELY ONE, THEN? DON'T LET THE NASTY CONTINENTALS ALARM YOU.
IN ENGLAND WE KNOW HOW TO TREAT OUR SQUIRRELS, DON'T WE NOW?
OH, BROTHER!
Patty's Peanuts


I GOTTA GET OUTTA SHOW BUSINESS!
MIGHT I RECOMMEND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS?
Carousel
RALPH!

OKAY, GANG! ALL DIPLOMATS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL GATHER 'ROUND NOW FOR FUNNY STUFF PARK'S NEWEST ATTRACTION... ALICE'S WONDERLAND!
ALICE'S
RLAND

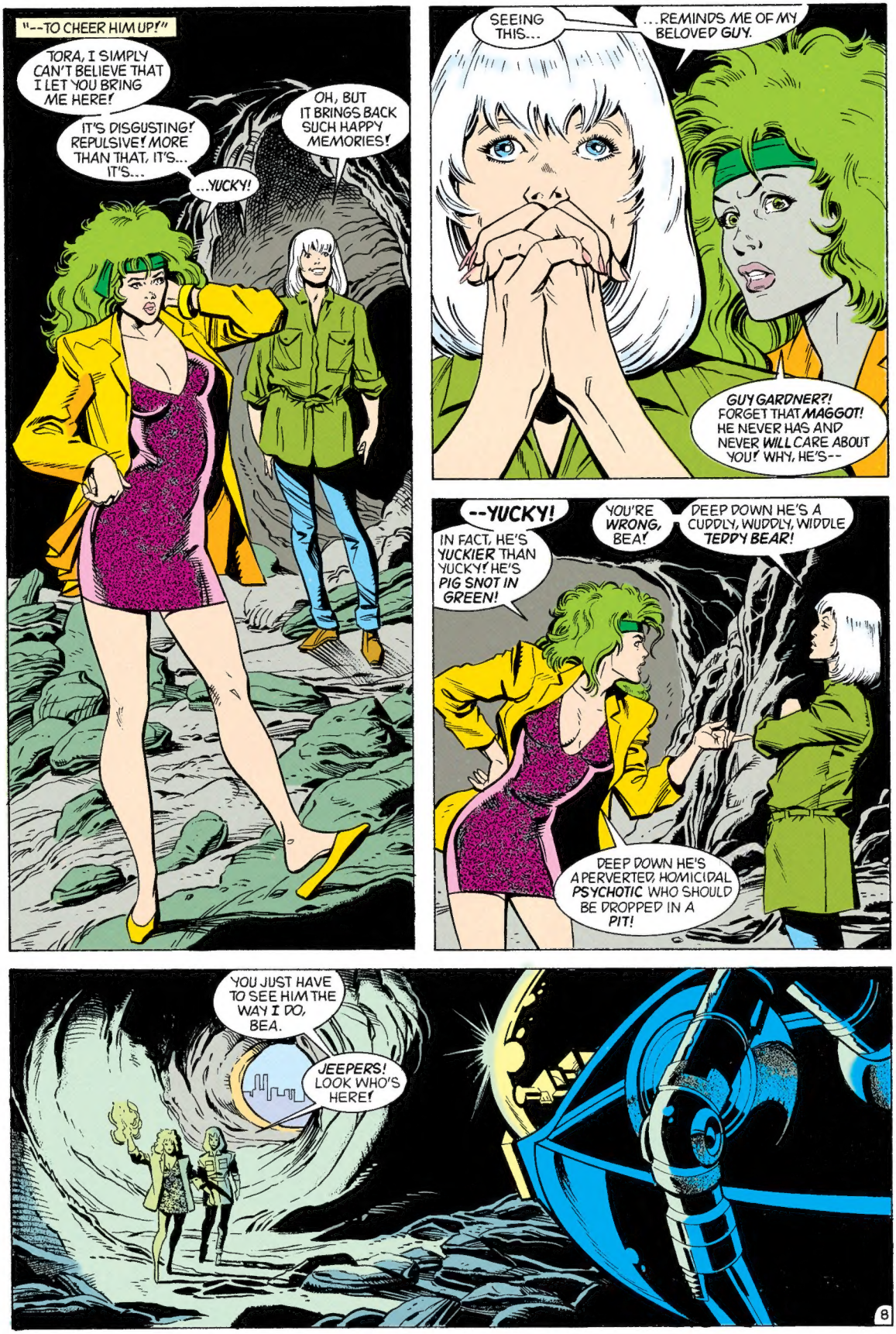

RIGHT THROUGH THIS HEDGEMAZE WE'LL FIND THE QUEEN'S CROQUET PARTY! THERE WE'LL CATCH A BOAT STRAIGHT TO THE WHITE RABBIT'S HOLE!
ALICE'S WONDERLAND
AND WILL WE GET CAKES THAT MAKE US GRRRROW?
RALPH!
MOMMY! THAT MAN IN THE SUNGLASSES PUSHED ME!
SHUT UP, KID. THIS IS FOR INTERNATIONAL HARMONY!
LOOK, RALPH. THE QUEEN'S ABOUT TO SPEAK!
FIVE BUCKS SHE SAYS...
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!
I MUST ADMIT. AMERICANS ARE GOOD WITH TECHNOLOGY.
REALLY, I DON'T THINK THESE FIGURES LOOK A BIT LIKE MR. TENNIEL'S DRAWINGS.
WELL, THEY MAY NOT LOOK LIKE DRAWINGS...
...BUT THEY CERTAINLY LOOK REAL!
UH-OH.
3

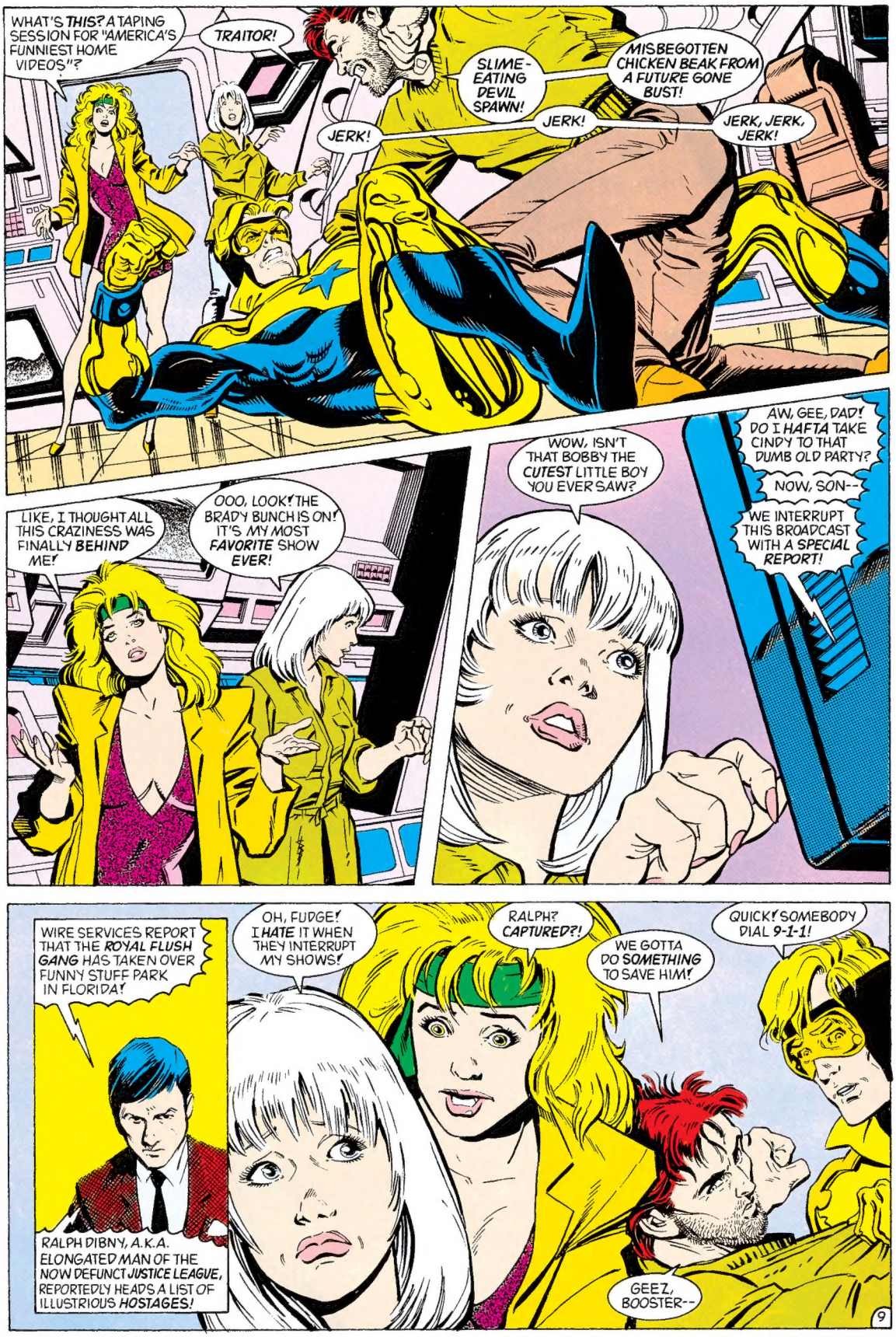

POK!
ZAK!
UNKH!
SUE! HELP GET THE DIPLOMATS OUT OF HERE--!
I'LL TANGLE UP AS MANY OF THESE AS I--
RALPH--
--THE QUEEN!
YOWZA!
OFF WITH YOUR HEAD! OFF!
DON'T FRET, QUEEN. ONE OF US MAY NOT BE ENOUGH...
FZAK!
...BUT TOGETHER WE BEAT ANY HAND THERE IS!
OH... RALPH...
THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT A ROYAL FLUSH!
TAKE THE HOSTAGES! ALERT THE MEDIA! TELL THE WORLD THAT ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS!
TELL THEM THE NEW ROYAL FLUSH GANG HAS ARRIVED!
AND THIS TIME WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINIES. THIS TIME WE DON'T PLAY THE STOOGE FOR ANYONE!
"IT'S GONE WRONG! OBERON-- IT'S GONE WRONG!"
4

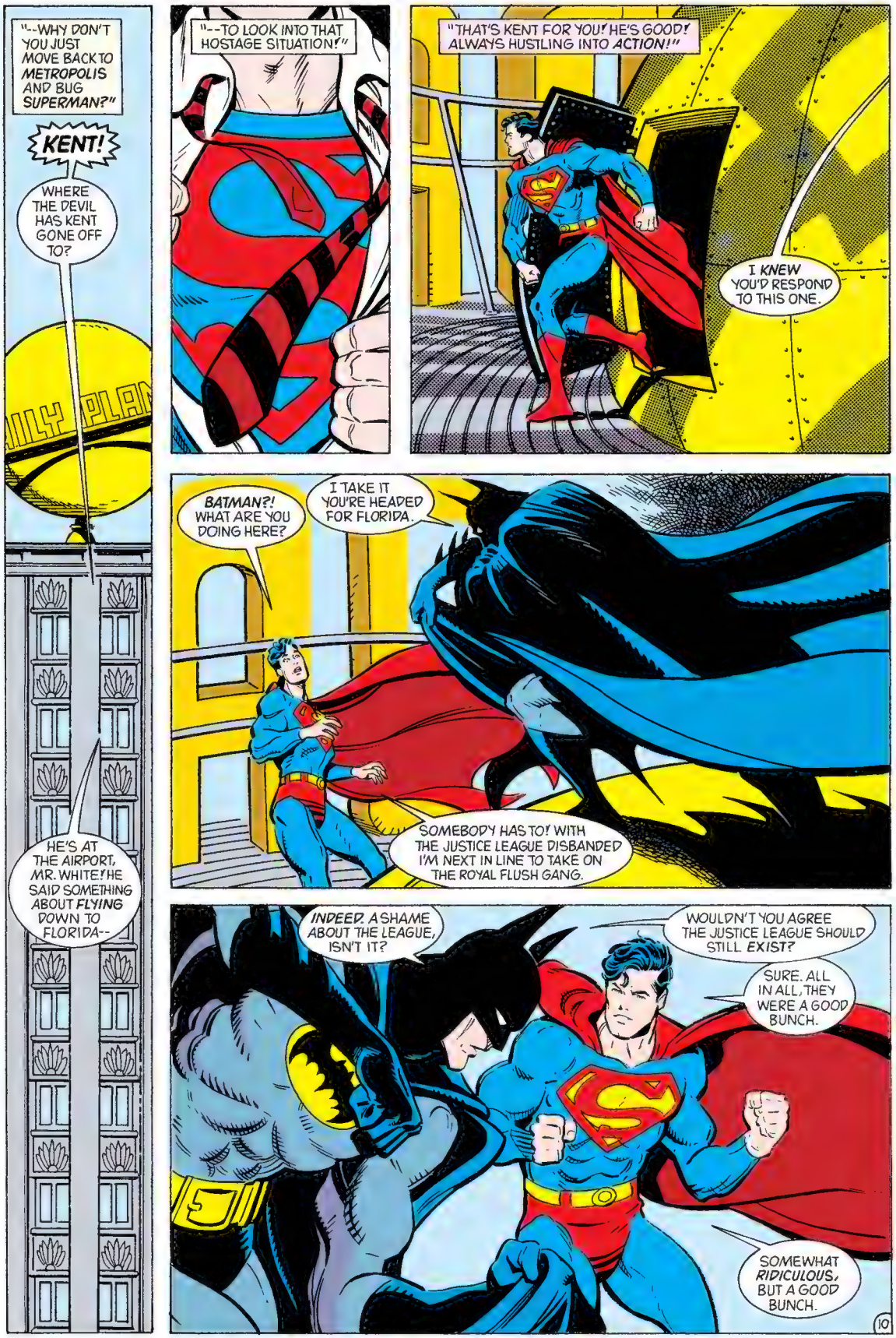

ALL I WANTED THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG TO DO WAS STORM FUNNY STUFF PARK--
--RATTLE SOME DOORS, TIP OVER SOME GARBAGE CANS, SPOOK A FEW DELEGATES--
--AND GET THOROUGHLY TRASHED BY THE LEAGUE!
BUT WHO EXPECTED THOSE POKER-LOVING IDIOTS TO PLAY FOR REAL?!
I'M A SWEETHEART, OBERON! WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS MESS?
UMM... YOU ORGANIZED THE WHOLE BOGUS OPERATION, MAX!
I MEAN, IT'S KINDA LIKE THROWING A BURNING MATCH INTO GASOLINE, Y'KNOW?
JUST BECAUSE THIS TRICK WORKED ONCE BEFORE AT THE U.N. DOESN'T--
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT IT WORKED! BECAUSE OF MY VISIONS-- MY ACTIONS--
--THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WAS REBORN!
AND IT SHOULD WORK THIS TIME TOO--
--IF THOSE BLASTED CARD FREAKS DON'T RUIN EVERYTHING!
MAX, IF YOU THINK THE LEAGUE IS GONNA RUSH IN AND SAVE THE DAY, YOU'RE WRONG!
THEY DON'T CARE ANY MORE, MAX! LIKE IT OR NOT--
5

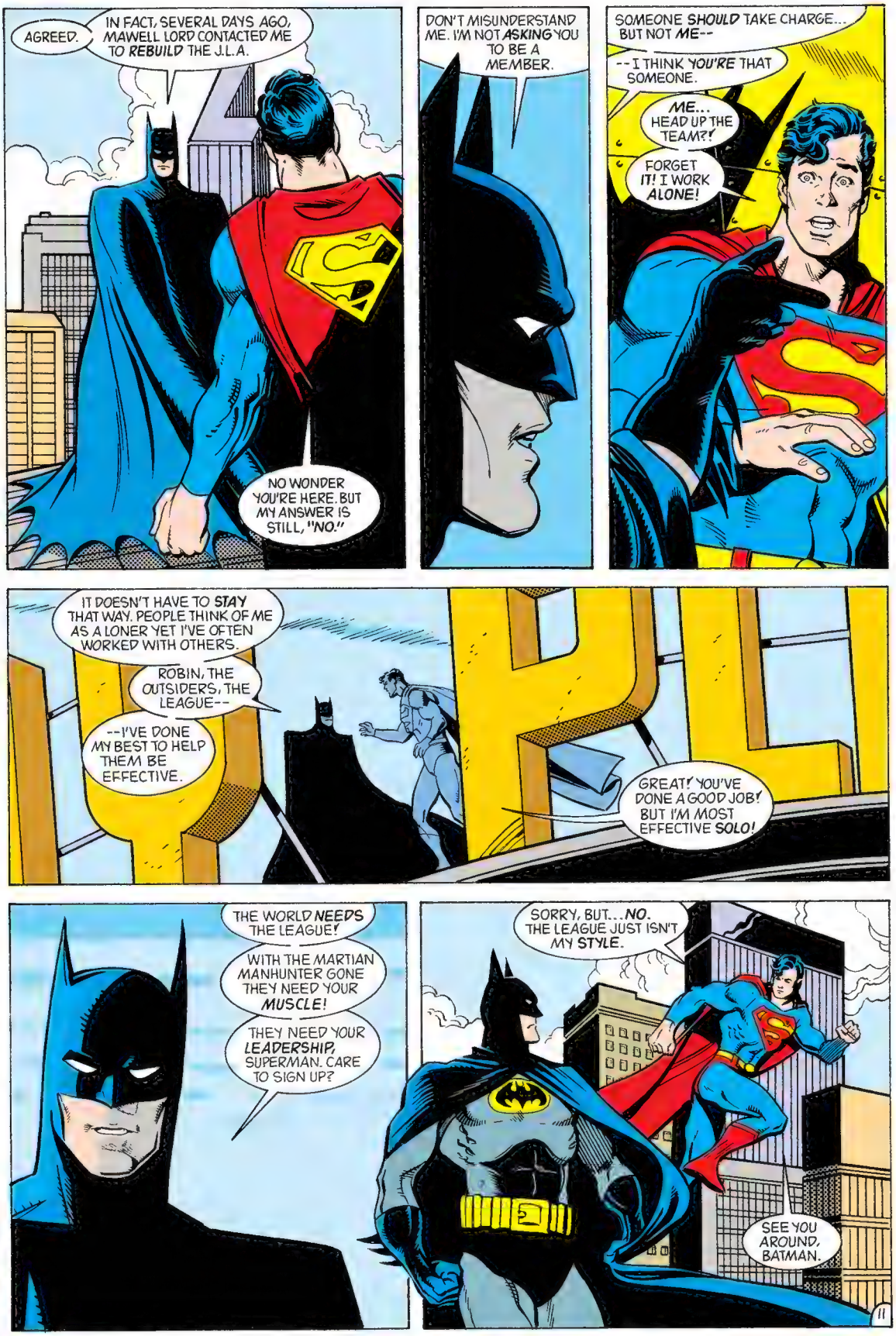
"--THERE IS NO MORE JUSTICE LEAGUE!"
A CAVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED ADULTS--
--THE GREATEST SUPER TEAM OF ALL TIME--
--SPENT YEARS HANGIN' OUT IN A CAVE!
I MEAN, BATMAN I CAN SEE! BUT BLACK CANARY...?!
WHY WOULD SHE WANT TO SETTLE DOWN WITH THE SNAKES, RATS AND BUGS?
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH...
YO, BEETLE, YOU IN THERE?
YUP! I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE!
HERE'S THE STORYYY... OF A MAN NAMED BRADYYY...
...WHO WAS BUSY WITH THREE BOYS OF HIS OWWWWN...
GOD, I LOVE THIS SHOW. IS THAT MARCIA CUTE OR WHAT?
BAG 'O HIPS
IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED!
THE BLUE BEETLE HAS DESCENDED INTO BRADY BUNCH HELL!
BOOSTER! HEY, BUD... PULL UP A CHAIR!

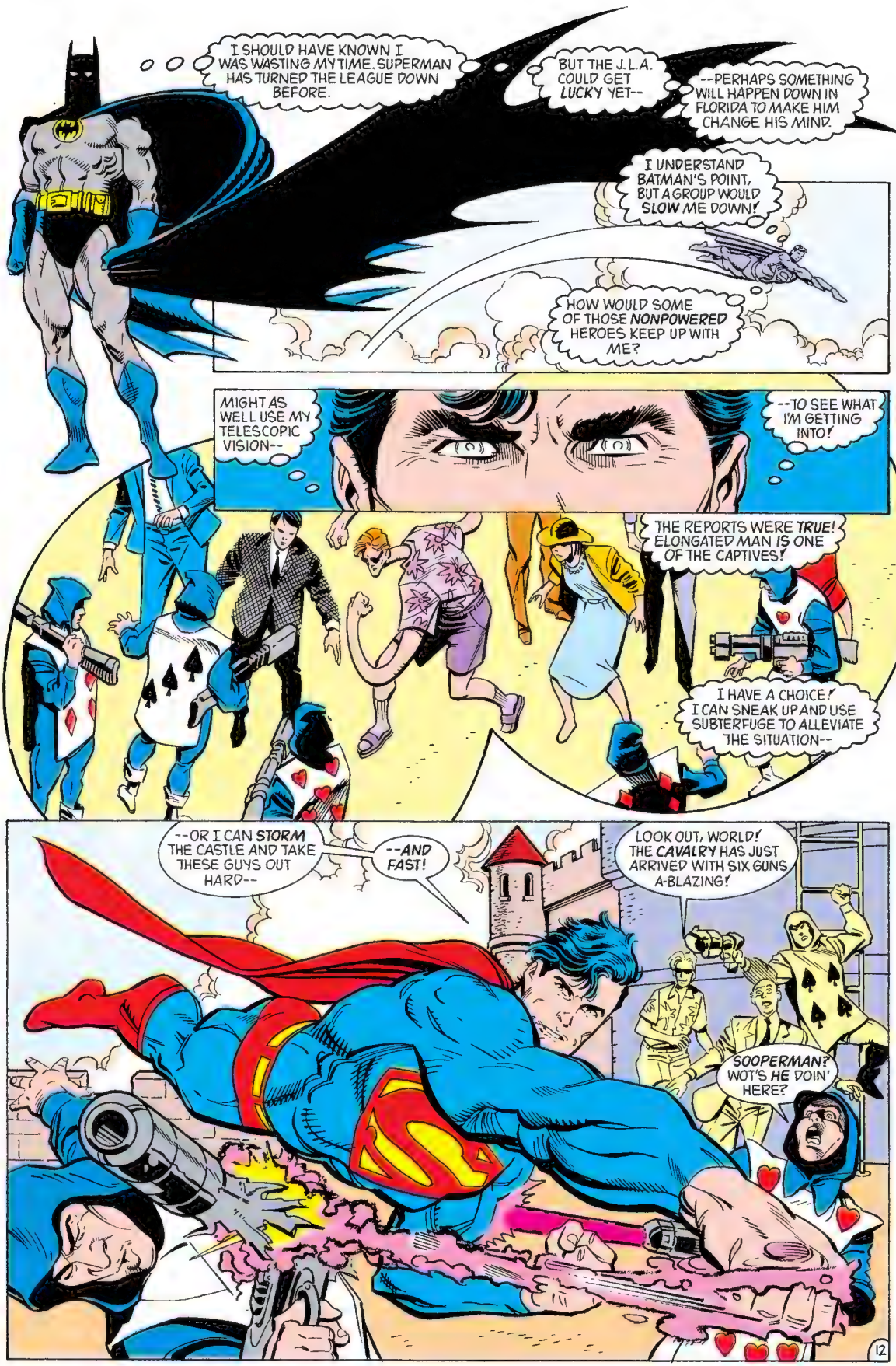
NO WAY! YOU CALLED MARCIA "CUTE"!
THAT'S SICK, TED! REALLY SICK!
YOU GOTTA SNAP OUTTA THIS FUNK!
GET OUTTA HERE!
BAG 'O CHIPS
WHAT DO YOU CARE, ANYWAY? YOU NEVER GAVE A DAMN FOR THE LEAGUE AND YOU KNOW IT!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I--
BULL! YOU BAILED OUT ON US TO SET UP THAT GROUP OF PRETENDERS, THE CONGLOMERATE, MONTHS AGO!
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT? GOING WHERE THE MONEY IS!
WELL, THE CONGLOMERATE MAY HAVE PAID MORE--
--BUT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAD MORE CLASS!
BIG DEAL. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, THE LEAGUE IS GONE.
KAPUT. FINITO. OVER.
DEAD.
AND I BET THAT MAKES YOUR DAY, TOO!
WELL, IT'S KILLING ME, BOOSTER. AND I'M USED TO LOSING THINGS.
HELL, A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, I LOST EVERYTHING I EVER HAD.
BUT THE LEAGUE GAVE ME A PLACE... A SENSE OF FAMILY... A REAL PURPOSE!
AND NOW THAT IT'S FINISHED... I GUESS I AM, TOO.
MAN... I NEVER REALIZED HE WAS IN THIS DEEP!
WISH I COULD THINK OF SOMETHING--
7


"--TO CHEER HIM UP!"
TORA, I SIMPLY CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I LET YOU BRING ME HERE!
IT'S DISGUSTING! REPULSIVE! MORE THAN THAT, IT'S... IT'S...
...YUCKY!
OH, BUT IT BRINGS BACK SUCH HAPPY MEMORIES!
SEEING THIS...
...REMINDS ME OF MY BELOVED GUY.
GUY GARDNER?! FORGET THAT MAGGOT! HE NEVER HAS AND NEVER WILL CARE ABOUT YOU! WHY, HE'S--
--YUCKY!
IN FACT, HE'S YUCKIER THAN YUCKY! HE'S PIG SNOT IN GREEN!
YOU'RE WRONG, BEA!
DEEP DOWN HE'S A CUDDLY, WUDDLY, WIDDLE TEDDY BEAR!
DEEP DOWN HE'S A PERVERTED, HOMICIDAL PSYCHOTIC WHO SHOULD BE DROPPED IN A PIT!
YOU JUST HAVE TO SEE HIM THE WAY I DO, BEA.
JEEPERS! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
8


WHAT'S THIS? A TAPING SESSION FOR "AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS"?
TRAITOR!
SLIME-EATING DEVIL SPAWN!
MISBEGOTTEN CHICKEN BEAK FROM A FUTURE GONE BUST!
JERK!
JERK!
JERK, JERK, JERK!
LIKE, I THOUGHT ALL THIS CRAZINESS WAS FINALLY BEHIND ME!
OOO, LOOK! THE BRADY BUNCH IS ON! IT'S MY MOST FAVORITE SHOW EVER!
WOW, ISN'T THAT BOBBY THE CUTEST LITTLE BOY YOU EVER SAW?
AW, GEE, DAD! DO I HAFTA TAKE CINDY TO THAT DUMB OLD PARTY?
NOW, SON--
WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST WITH A SPECIAL REPORT!
WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG HAS TAKEN OVER FUNNY STUFF PARK IN FLORIDA!
RALPH DIBNY, A.K.A. ELONGATED MAN OF THE NOW DEFUNCT JUSTICE LEAGUE, REPORTEDLY HEADS A LIST OF ILLUSTRIOUS HOSTAGES!
OH, FUDGE! I HATE IT WHEN THEY INTERRUPT MY SHOWS!
RALPH? CAPTURED?!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HIM!
QUICK! SOMEBODY DIAL 9-1-1!
GEEZ, BOOSTER--
9


"--WHY DON'T YOU JUST MOVE BACK TO METROPOLIS AND BUG SUPERMAN?"
KENT!
WHERE THE DEVIL HAS KENT GONE OFF TO?
HE'S AT THE AIRPORT, MR. WHITE! HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT FLYING DOWN TO FLORIDA--
"--TO LOOK INTO THAT HOSTAGE SITUATION!"
"THAT'S KENT FOR YOU! HE'S GOOD! ALWAYS HUSTLING INTO ACTION!"
I KNEW YOU'D RESPOND TO THIS ONE.
BATMAN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I TAKE IT YOU'RE HEADED FOR FLORIDA.
SOMEBODY HAS TO! WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DISBANDED I'M NEXT IN LINE TO TAKE ON THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG.
INDEED. A SHAME ABOUT THE LEAGUE, ISN'T IT?
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SHOULD STILL EXIST?
SURE. ALL IN ALL, THEY WERE A GOOD BUNCH.
SOMEWHAT RIDICULOUS, BUT A GOOD BUNCH.


AGREED.
IN FACT, SEVERAL DAYS AGO, MAXWELL LORD CONTACTED ME TO REBUILD THE J.L.A.
NO WONDER YOU'RE HERE. BUT MY ANSWER IS STILL, "NO."
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BE A MEMBER.
SOMEONE SHOULD TAKE CHARGE... BUT NOT ME--
--I THINK YOU'RE THAT SOMEONE.
ME... HEAD UP THE TEAM?!
FORGET IT! I WORK ALONE!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY THAT WAY. PEOPLE THINK OF ME AS A LONER YET I'VE OFTEN WORKED WITH OTHERS.
ROBIN, THE OUTSIDERS, THE LEAGUE--
--I'VE DONE MY BEST TO HELP THEM BE EFFECTIVE.
GREAT! YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB! BUT I'M MOST EFFECTIVE SOLO!
THE WORLD NEEDS THE LEAGUE!
WITH THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER GONE THEY NEED YOUR MUSCLE!
THEY NEED YOUR LEADERSHIP, SUPERMAN. CARE TO SIGN UP?
SORRY, BUT... NO. THE LEAGUE JUST ISN'T MY STYLE.
SEE YOU AROUND, BATMAN.


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WAS WASTING MY TIME. SUPERMAN HAS TURNED THE LEAGUE DOWN BEFORE.
BUT THE J.L.A. COULD GET LUCKY YET--
--PERHAPS SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN DOWN IN FLORIDA TO MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND.
I UNDERSTAND BATMAN'S POINT, BUT A GROUP WOULD SLOW ME DOWN!
HOW WOULD SOME OF THOSE NONPOWERED HEROES KEEP UP WITH ME?
MIGHT AS WELL USE MY TELESCOPIC VISION--
--TO SEE WHAT I'M GETTING INTO!
THE REPORTS WERE TRUE! ELONGATED MAN IS ONE OF THE CAPTIVES!
I HAVE A CHOICE! I CAN SNEAK UP AND USE SUBTERFUGE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION--
--OR I CAN STORM THE CASTLE AND TAKE THESE GUYS OUT HARD--
--AND FAST!
LOOK OUT, WORLD! THE CAVALRY HAS JUST ARRIVED WITH SIX GUNS A-BLAZING!
SOOPERMAN? WOT'S HE DOIN' HERE?

HEY, SUPERGUY! WE FIGGERED YOU MIGHT SHOW UP--
--SO OL' ACE HAS JUST THE TICKET TO ACE YOU FOR GOOD!
NICE TRY.
ZZAP
BUT NOT QUITE--
--NICE ENOUGH!
WHAM
I WOULDN'T GLOAT IF I WERE YOU, SUPERMAN!
ACE'S GAMMA BLASTER WASN'T THE ONLY TOY IN OUR ARSENAL!
OUR SECRET BENEFACTOR BUILT US SOMETHING ELSE DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
"DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU"? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY--
--GAME SHOW HOSTS?!
SECRET BENEFACTOR?! WHAT THE HECK DID YOU GIVE THEM, MAX?
NOTHING! I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED SUPERMAN'S INVOLVEMENT!
THOSE WEAPONS AND ALL--THESE GUYS COULDN'T BE WORKING FOR ANYONE ELSE--
--COULD THEY?
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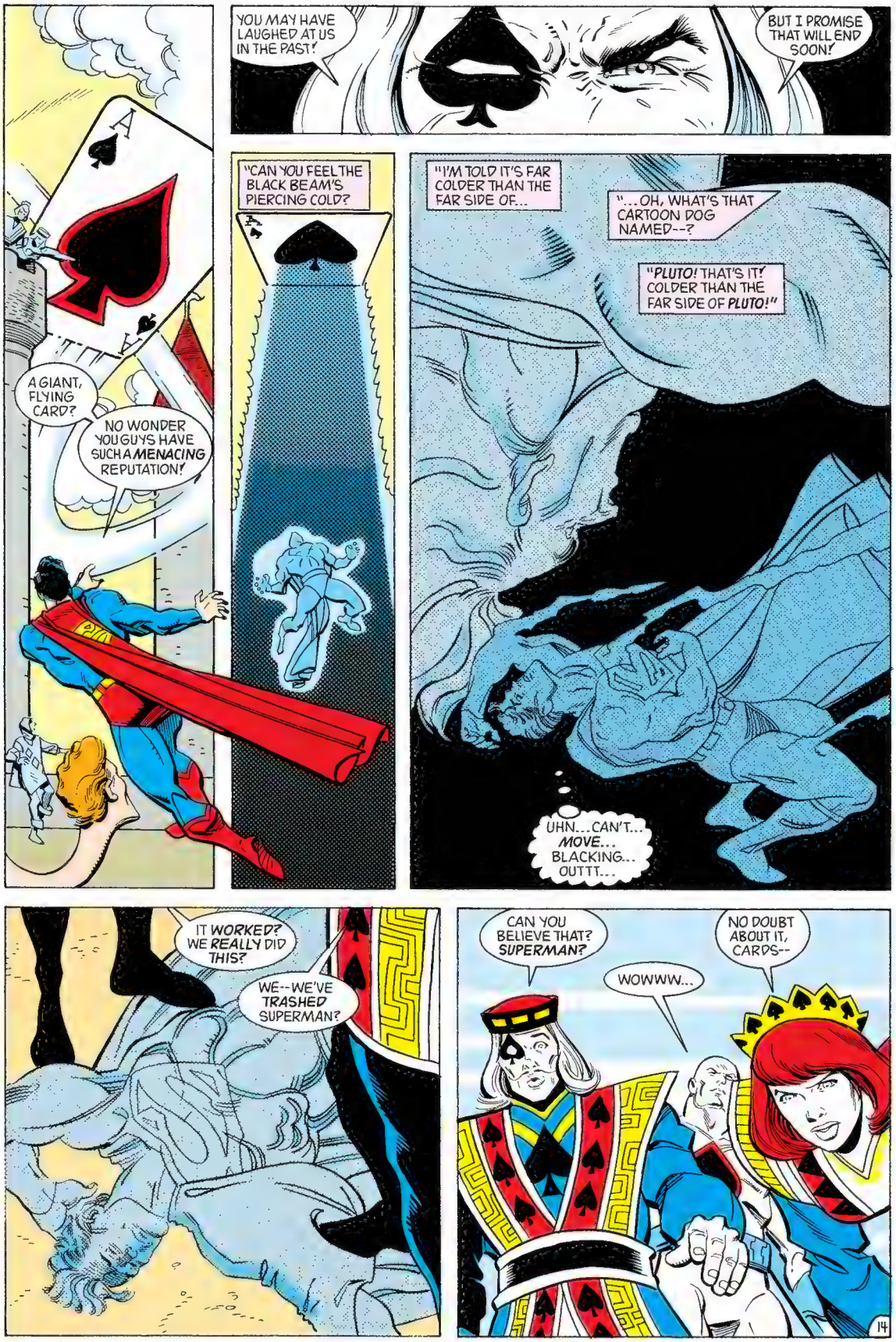
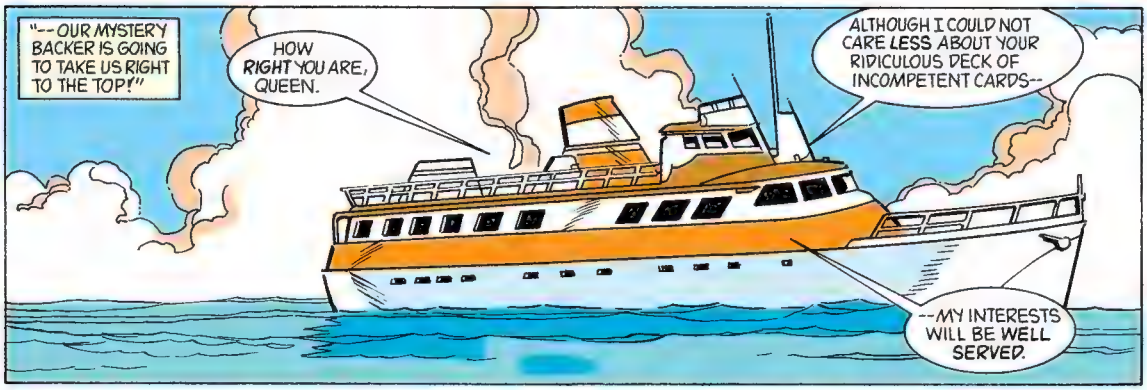
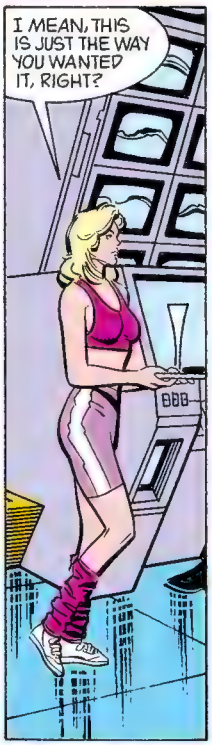
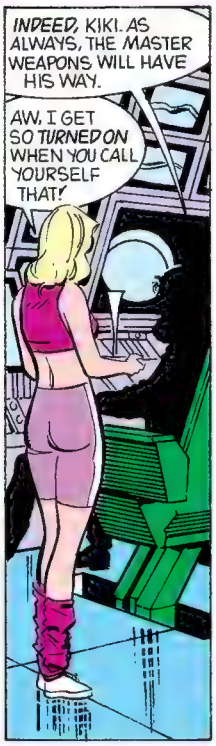
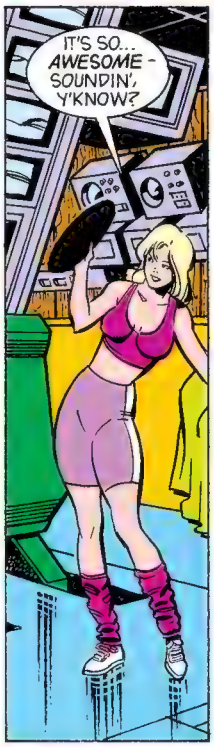

YOU MAY HAVE LAUGHED AT US IN THE PAST!
BUT I PROMISE THAT WILL END SOON!
A GIANT, FLYING CARD?
NO WONDER YOU GUYS HAVE SUCH A MENACING REPUTATION!
"CAN YOU FEEL THE BLACK BEAM'S PIERCING COLD?
"I'M TOLD IT'S FAR COLDER THAN THE FAR SIDE OF...
"...OH, WHAT'S THAT CARTOON DOG NAMED--?
"PLUTO! THAT'S IT! COLDER THAN THE FAR SIDE OF PLUTO!"
UHN...CAN'T... MOVE... BLACKING... OUTTT...
IT WORKED? WE REALLY DID THIS?
WE--WE'VE TRASHED SUPERMAN?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? SUPERMAN?
WOWWW...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, CARDS--

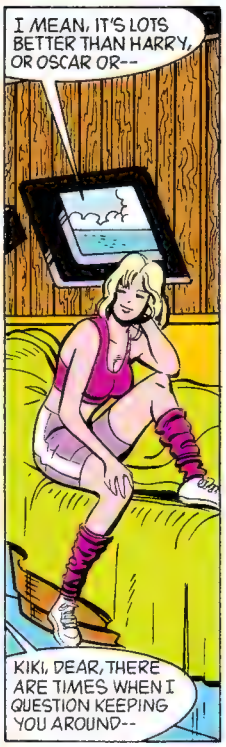

"--OUR MYSTERY BACKER IS GOING TO TAKE US RIGHT TO THE TOP!"
HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, QUEEN.
ALTHOUGH I COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT YOUR RIDICULOUS DECK OF INCOMPETENT CARDS--
--MY INTERESTS WILL BE WELL SERVED.

WOW! THINGS MUST BE GOIN; LIKE, PRETTY GOOD, HUH, BOSS?


I MEAN, THIS IS JUST THE WAY YOU WANTED IT, RIGHT?

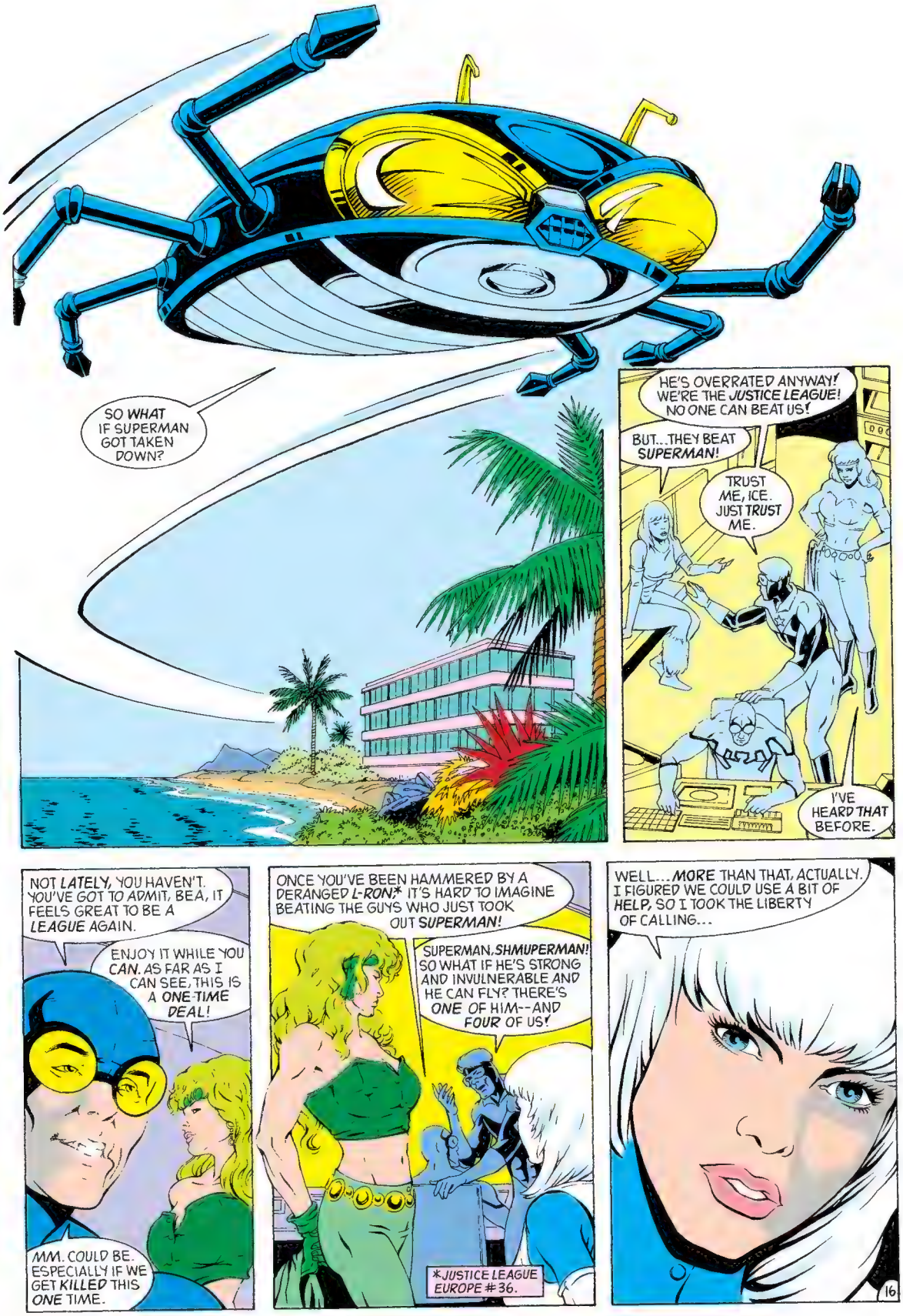

INDEED, KIKI. AS ALWAYS, THE MASTER WEAPONS WILL HAVE HIS WAY.
AW, I GET SO TURNED ON WHEN YOU CALL YOURSELF THAT!

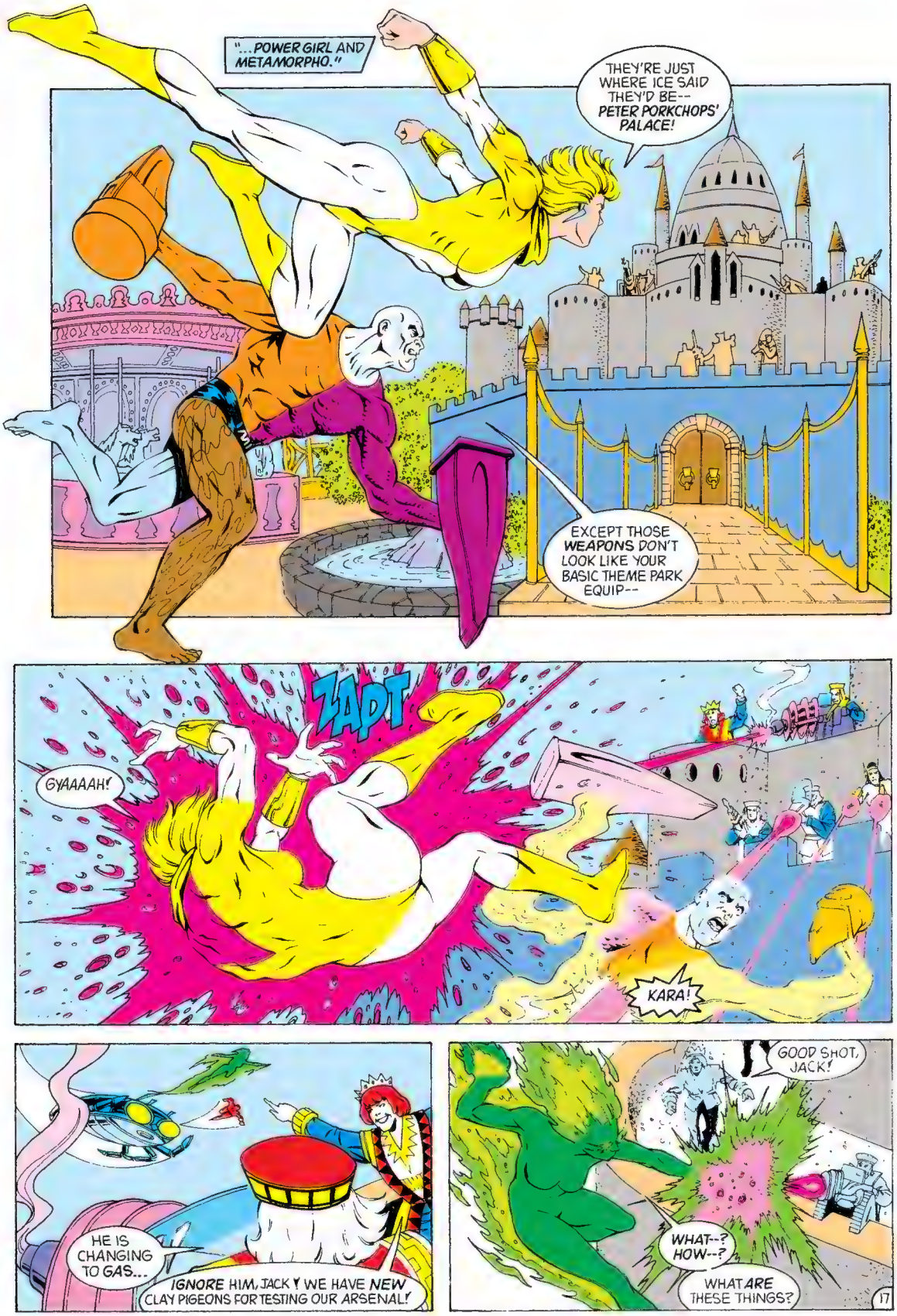

IT'S SO... AWESOME - SOUNDIN', Y'KNOW?

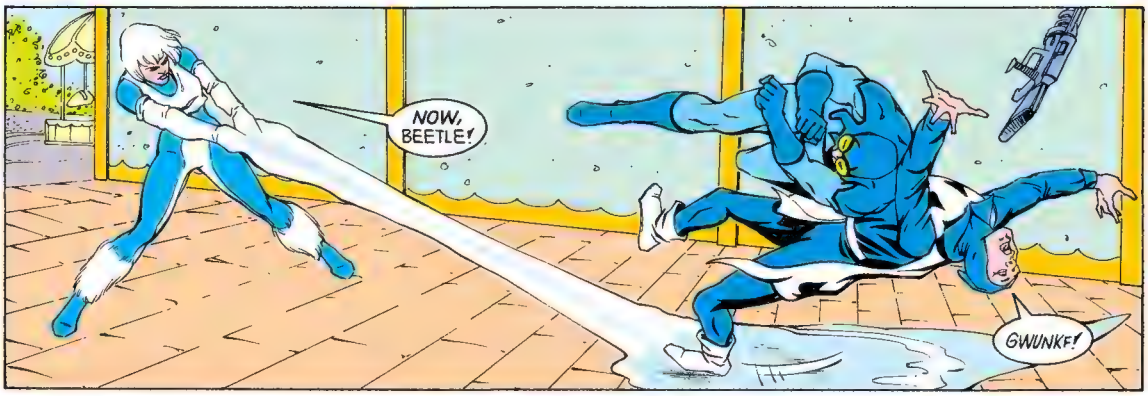

I MEAN, IT'S LOTS BETTER THAN HARRY, OR OSCAR OR--
KIKI, DEAR, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I QUESTION KEEPING YOU AROUND--

--AND TIMES WHEN THE ANSWER IS QUITE... OBVIOUS.
OOO... LITTLE KIKI THINKS IT'S BREAK TIME.

WHY NOT?
ALL GOES EXCEEDINGLY WELL--
--AND THE NEXT PHASE OF OPERATION LANTERN WILL SOON BEGIN.

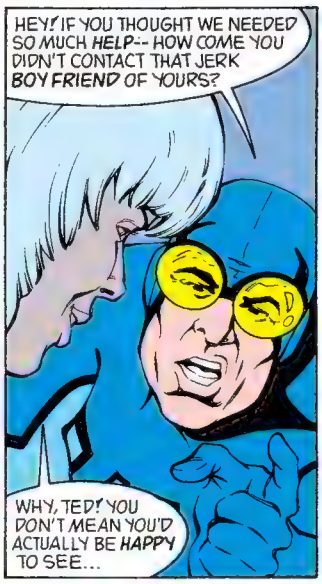

SO WHAT IF SUPERMAN GOT TAKEN DOWN?
HE'S OVERRATED ANYWAY! WE'RE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE! NO ONE CAN BEAT US!
BUT...THEY BEAT SUPERMAN!
TRUST ME, ICE. JUST TRUST ME.
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.
NOT LATELY, YOU HAVEN'T. YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT, BEA, IT FEELS GREAT TO BE A LEAGUE AGAIN.
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN. AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THIS IS A ONE-TIME DEAL!
MM. COULD BE. ESPECIALLY IF WE GET KILLED THIS ONE TIME.
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN HAMMERED BY A DERANGED L-RON;* IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE BEATING THE GUYS WHO JUST TOOK OUT SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN. SHMUPERMAN! SO WHAT IF HE'S STRONG AND INVULNERABLE AND HE CAN FLY? THERE'S ONE OF HIM--AND FOUR OF US!
*JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #36.
WELL...MORE THAN THAT, ACTUALLY. I FIGURED WE COULD USE A BIT OF HELP, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CALLING...

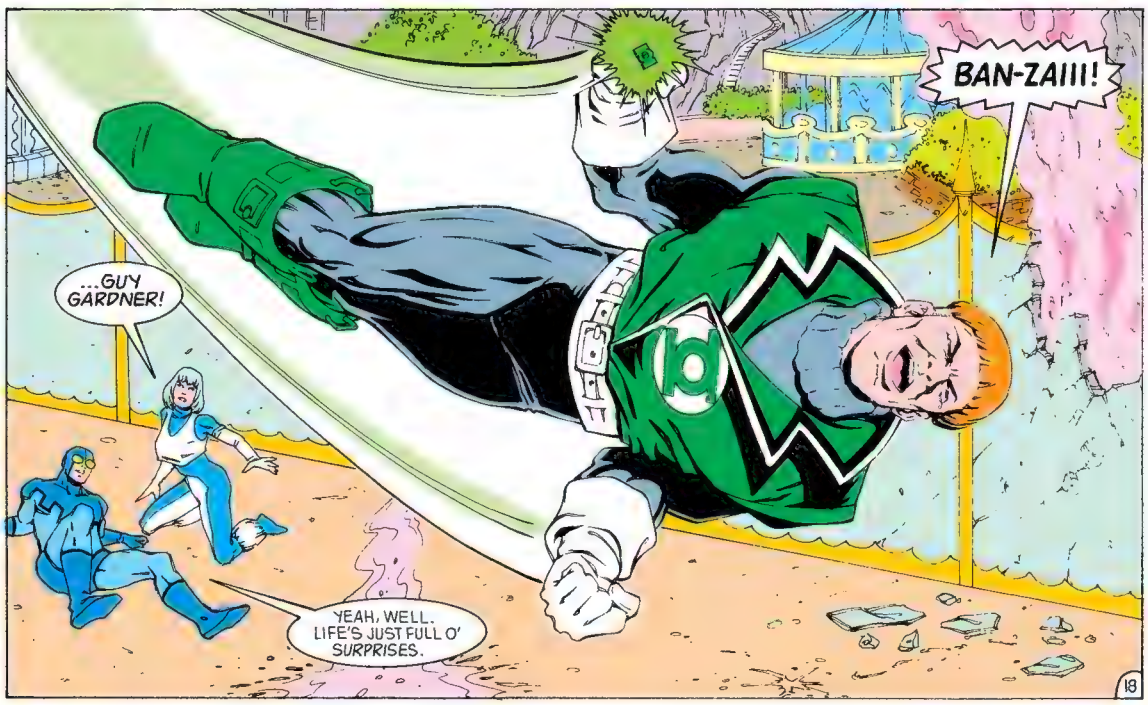

"...POWER GIRL AND METAMORPHO."
THEY'RE JUST WHERE ICE SAID THEY'D BE-- PETER PORKCHOPS' PALACE!
EXCEPT THOSE WEAPONS DON'T LOOK LIKE YOUR BASIC THEME PARK EQUIP--
ZAPT!
GYAAAAH!
KARA!
HE IS CHANGING TO GAS...
IGNORE HIM, JACK! WE HAVE NEW CLAY PIGEONS FOR TESTING OUR ARSENAL!
GOOD SHOT, JACK!
WHAT--? HOW--?
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

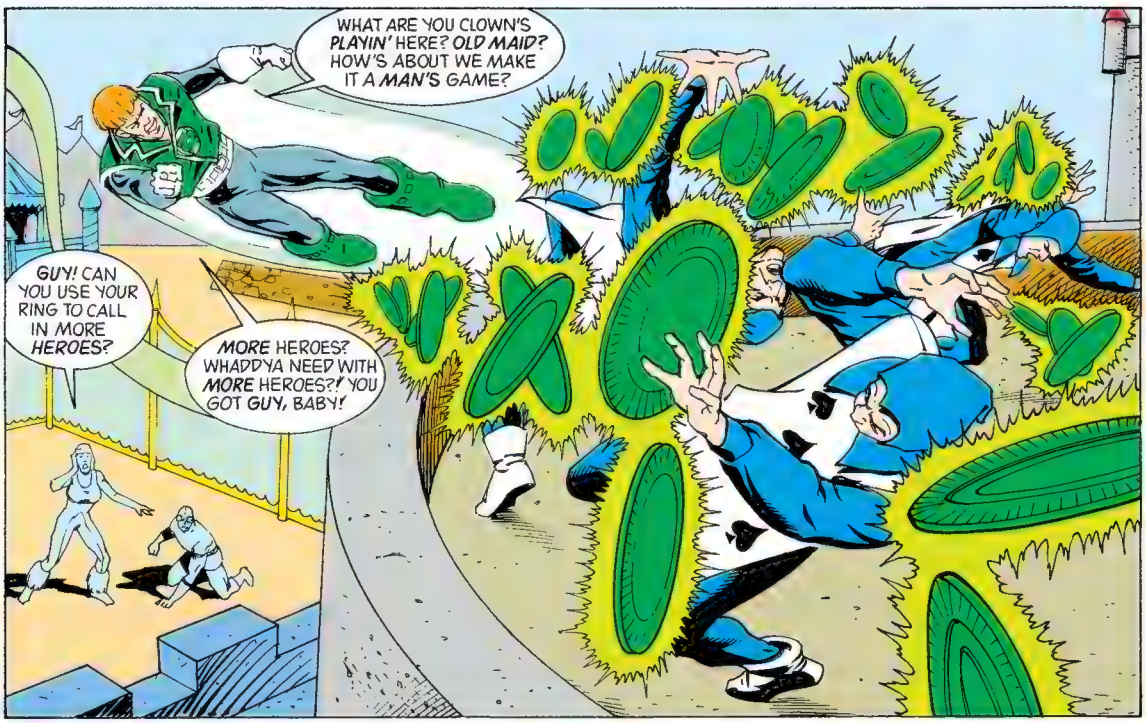

NOW, BEETLE!
GWUNK!

WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH. LET'S SEE IF AN ICE WALL CAN BLOCK SOME OF THOSE BEAMS.
MAN. I'VE GOTTA GET BACK INTO SHAPE.

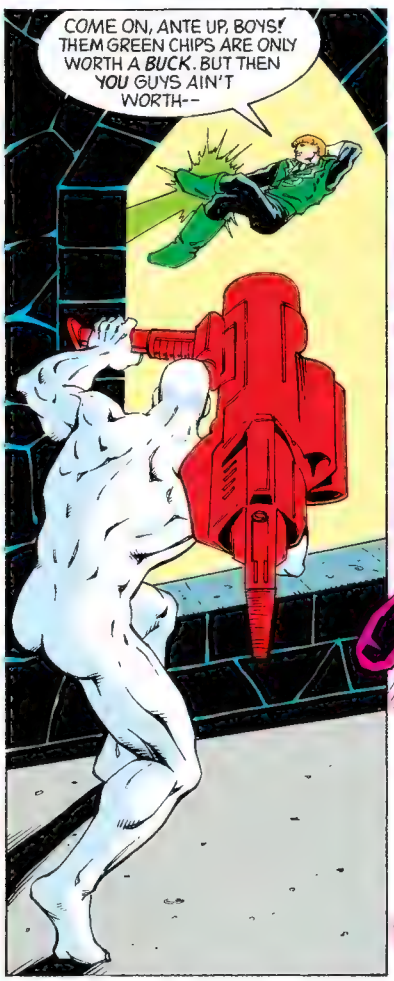
LOOK OUT!
BZAP
SO MUCH FOR ICE WALLS.


HEY! IF YOU THOUGHT WE NEEDED SO MUCH HELP-- HOW COME YOU DIDN'T CONTACT THAT JERK BOYFRIEND OF YOURS?
WHY, TED! YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'D ACTUALLY BE HAPPY TO SEE...


BAN-ZAIII!
...GUY GARDNER!
YEAH, WELL. LIFE'S JUST FULL O' SURPRISES.


WHAT ARE YOU CLOWN'S *PLAYIN'* HERE? *OLD MAID?* HOW'S ABOUT WE MAKE IT A *MAN'S* GAME?
GUY! CAN YOU USE YOUR RING TO CALL IN MORE *HEROES?*
MORE HEROES? WHADDYA NEED WITH *MORE* HEROES?! YOU GOT *GUY,* BABY!

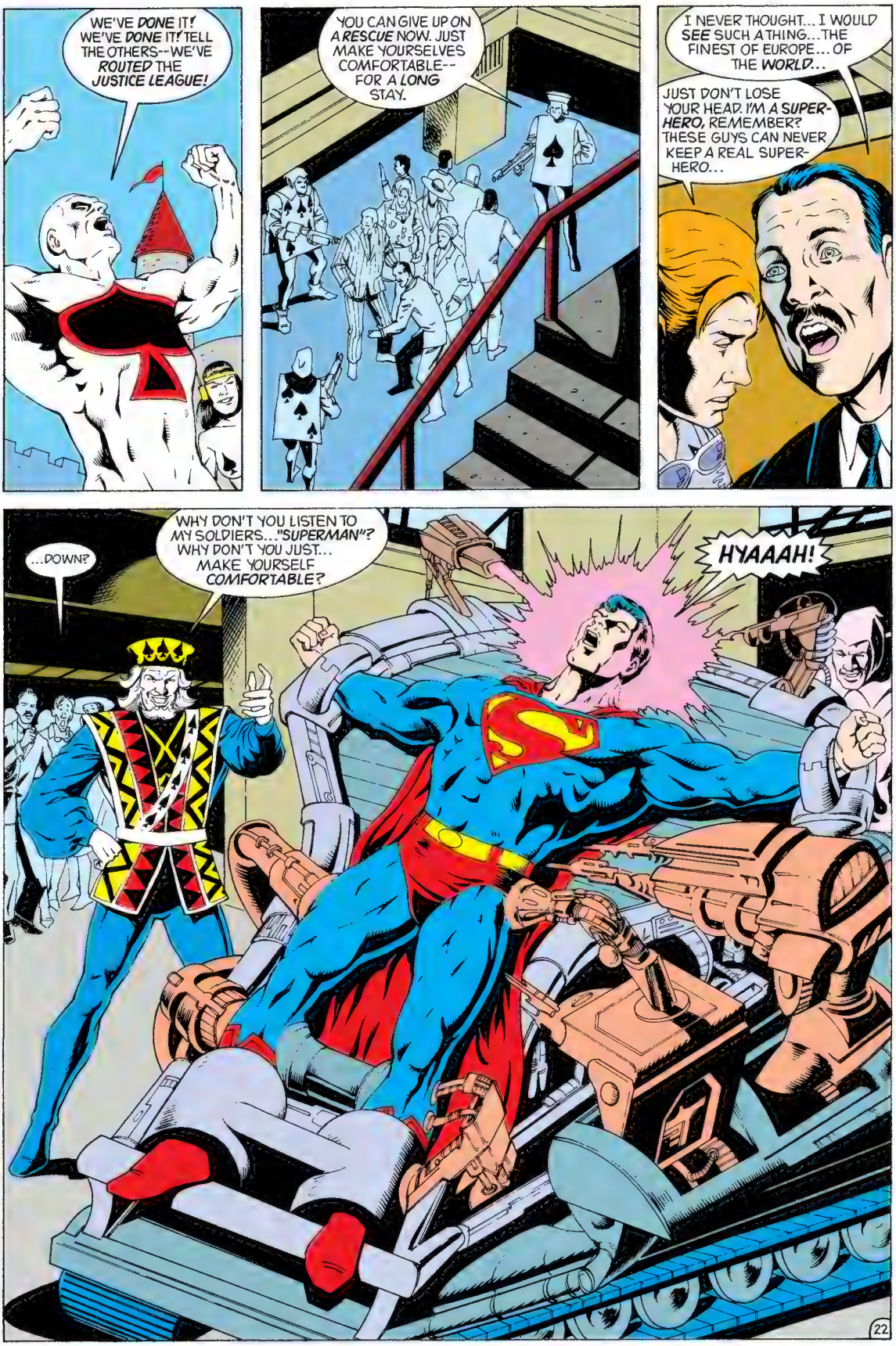
PERFECT! THIS IS *PERFECT!*


COME ON, ANTE UP, BOYS! THEM GREEN CHIPS ARE ONLY WORTH A *BUCK.* BUT THEN *YOU* GUYS AIN'T WORTH--

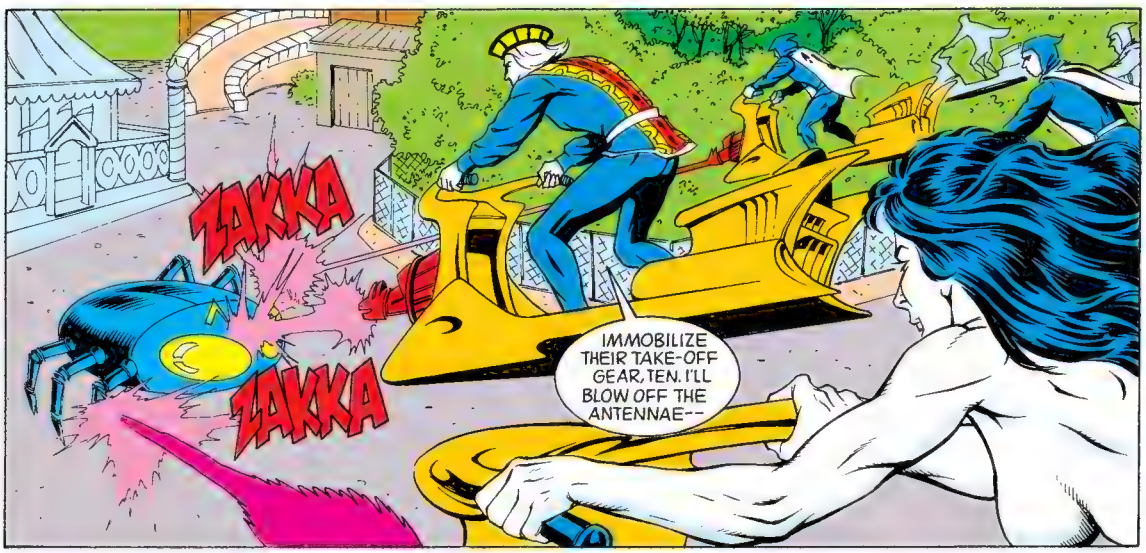
--HUH?
JOOOM

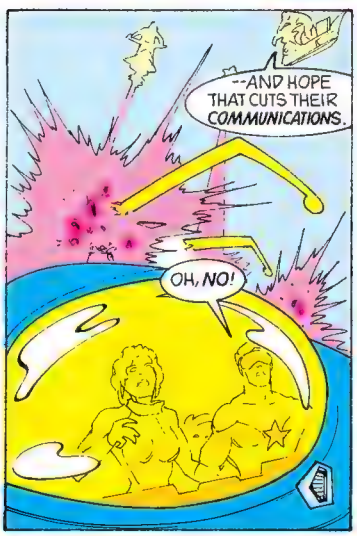
WHERE--?
CAN'T--
THUMP
--WHUFF!
GUY...?
OH--
SHKK
SPLAK
--NO!
THK
THAT'S IT, HONEY. RUN TO YOUR BEAU. TURN YOUR BACK ON ME!
ZAK
WHAT'S HAPPENING, OBERON? WHERE DID THEY GET WEAPONS LIKE THAT?
GET THE OTHERS OUT OF DANGER! WE'LL HAVE TO FALL BACK AND REGROUP!
Hot Dogs
YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE THIS, GARDNER. 'CAUSE IF YOU--
--GYUUHH!
PERFECT.. PERFECT...
SNIK
20

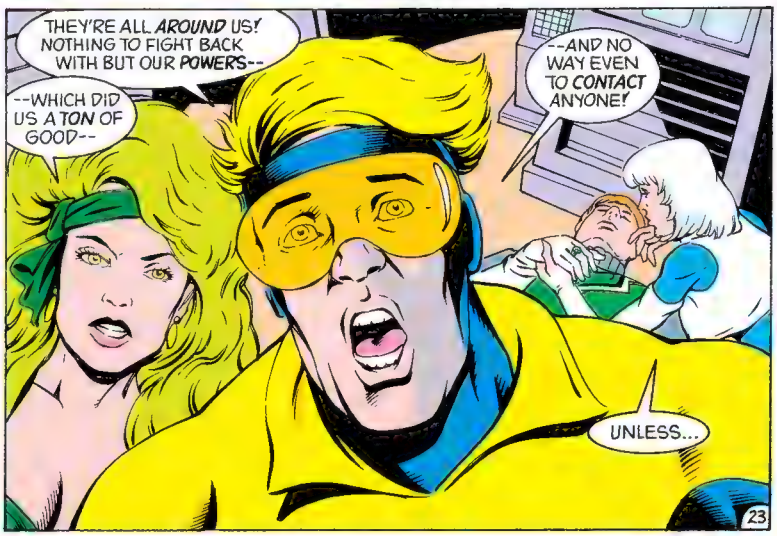
WOOOOOOOOOOOOO
CHIK-CHIK
SHA-BLAM!
"NO! I DIDN'T SEE HIM COMING!"
AND I WAS SO CLOSE!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM FROM THEM!
"I'LL HAVE TO ATTACK THEM DIRECTLY!"
HURRY, KARA--TO BEETLE'S BUG!
21


WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE DONE IT! TELL THE OTHERS--WE'VE ROUTED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
YOU CAN GIVE UP ON A RESCUE NOW. JUST MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE--FOR A LONG STAY.
I NEVER THOUGHT... I WOULD SEE SUCH A THING...THE FINEST OF EUROPE... OF THE WORLD...
JUST DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD. I'M A SUPER-HERO, REMEMBER? THESE GUYS CAN NEVER KEEP A REAL SUPER-HERO...
...DOWN?
WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN TO MY SOLDIERS..."SUPERMAN"? WHY DON'T YOU JUST... MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE?
HYAAAH!
22

ALL RIGHT! I ADMIT IT. WE NEED HELP!
HOW WONDERFULLY HUMBLE OF YOU. BUT WHOSE HELP?
ANYBODY'S! GET ON THE BUG'S RADIO AND--


ZAKKA
ZAKKA
IMMOBILIZE THEIR TAKE-OFF GEAR, TEN. I'LL BLOW OFF THE ANTENNAE--


--AND HOPE THAT CUTS THEIR COMMUNICATIONS.
OH, NO!


THEY'RE ALL AROUND US! NOTHING TO FIGHT BACK WITH BUT OUR POWERS--
--WHICH DID US A TON OF GOOD--
--AND NO WAY EVEN TO CONTACT ANYONE!
UNLESS...

THESE GREEN LANTERN RINGS WORK ON WILL-POWER. SOMETIMES SOMEONE ELSE'S WILL CAN MAKE IT WORK. I DID THIS ONCE BEFORE, WHEN THE RING FELL INTO MY HANDS.*
*JUSTICE LEAGUE QUARTERLY #5.
THIS MAY BE HARDER...BUT IF I CONCENTRATE... IF I TRY...
...IF I REALLY... TRY...
WHO'S THERE?
WE...NEED YOUR HELP... HAL, GUY AND...SUPERMAN... HAVE FALLEN. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...NEEDS YOU.
BUT I HAVE A MISSION...
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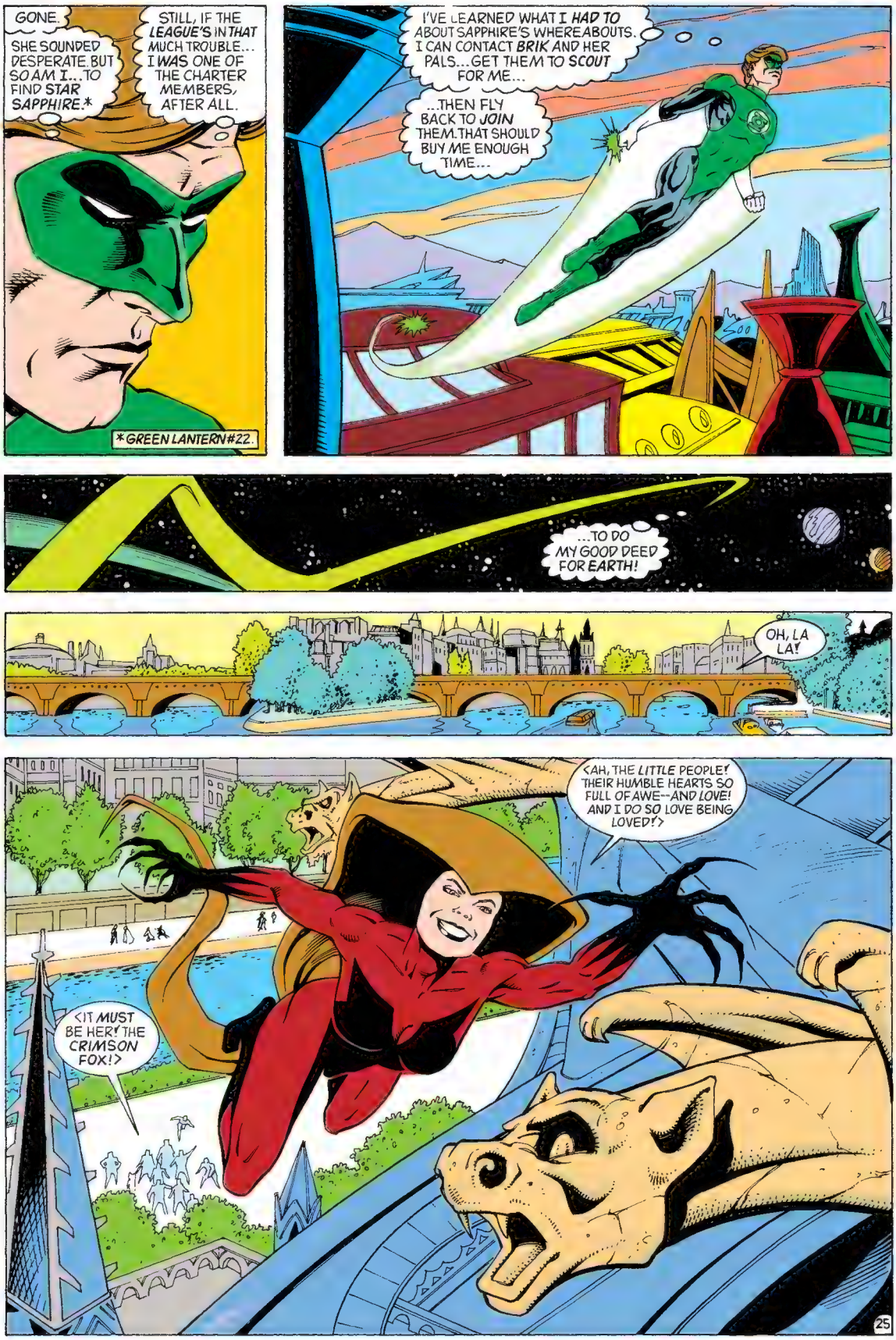
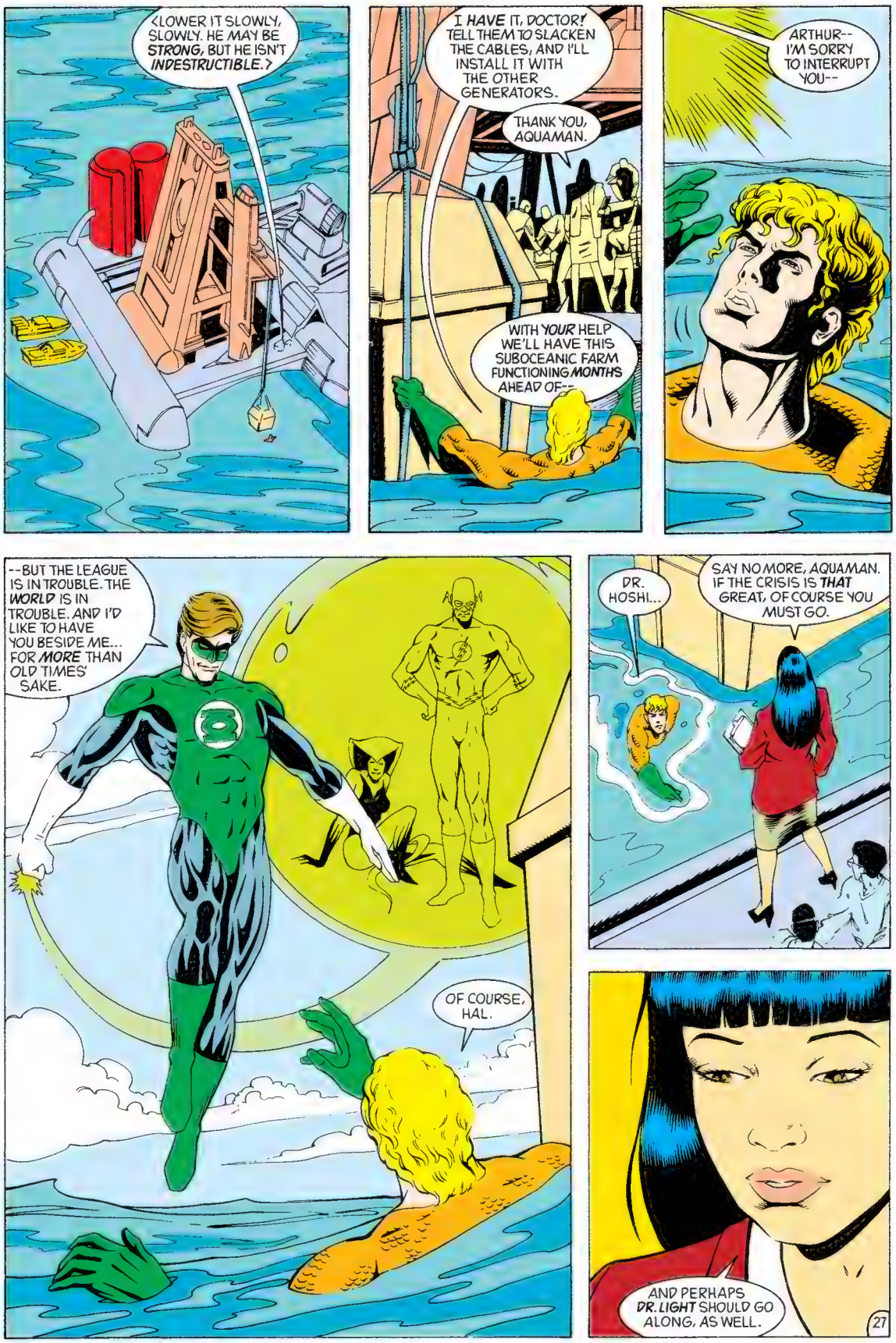
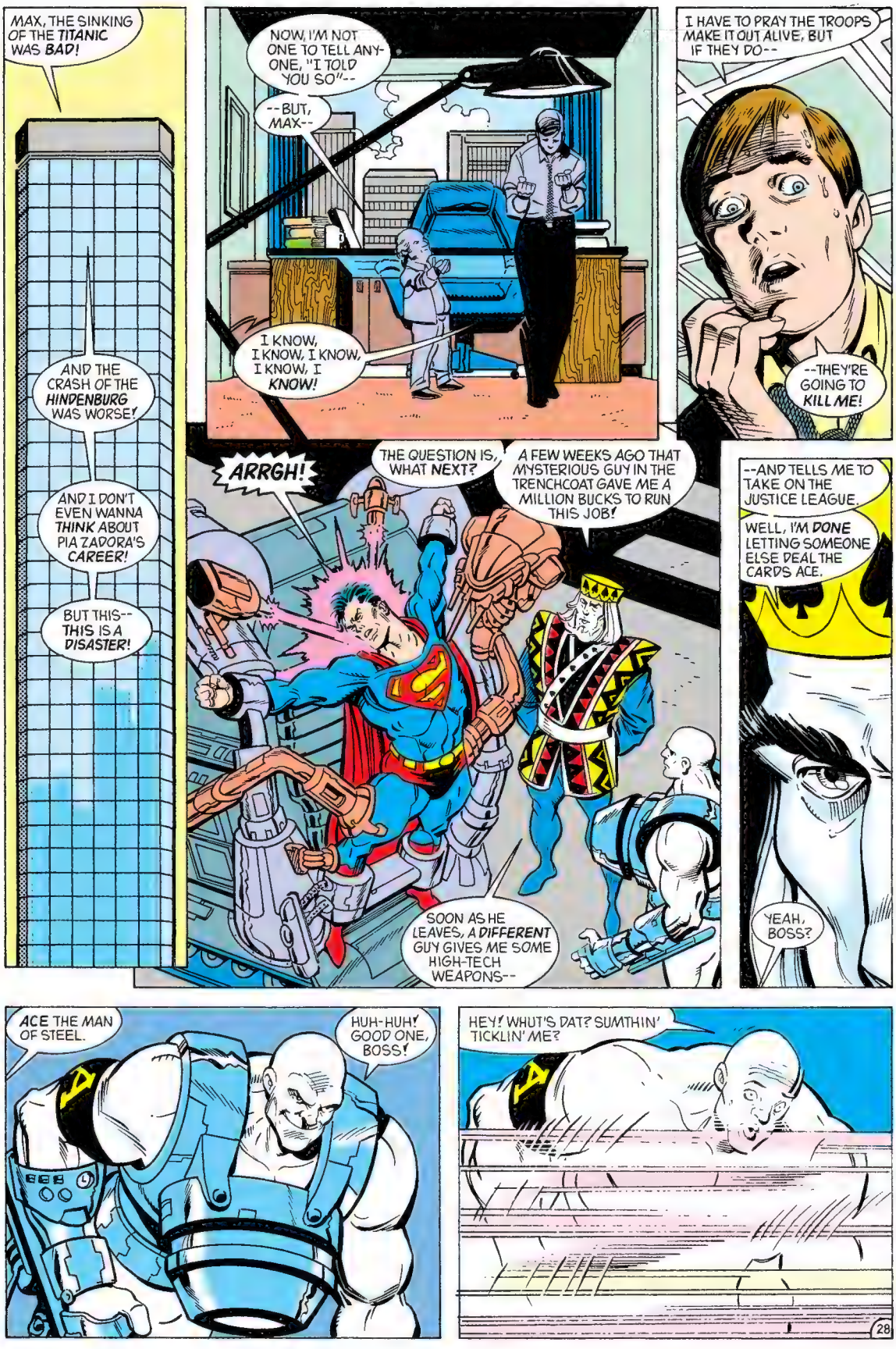
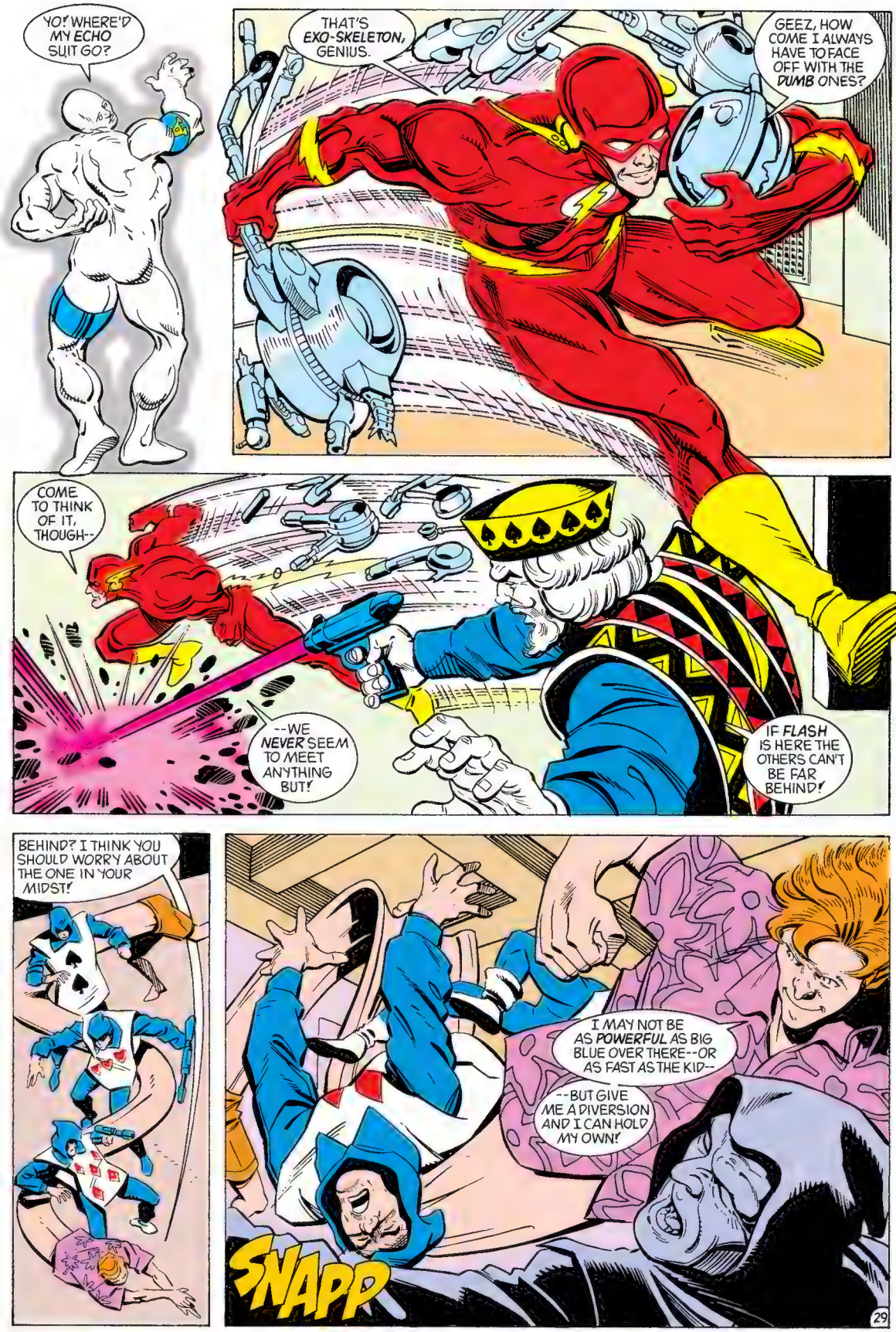

GONE.
SHE SOUNDED DESPERATE. BUT SO AM I...TO FIND STAR SAPPHIRE.*
STILL, IF THE LEAGUE'S IN THAT MUCH TROUBLE... I WAS ONE OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS, AFTER ALL.
*GREEN LANTERN #22.
I'VE LEARNED WHAT I HAD TO ABOUT SAPPHIRE'S WHEREABOUTS. I CAN CONTACT BRIK AND HER PALS...GET THEM TO SCOUT FOR ME...
...THEN FLY BACK TO JOIN THEM. THAT SHOULD BUY ME ENOUGH TIME...
...TO DO MY GOOD DEED FOR EARTH!
OH, LA LA!
<AH, THE LITTLE PEOPLE! THEIR HUMBLE HEARTS SO FULL OF AWE--AND LOVE! AND I DO SO LOVE BEING LOVED!>
<IT MUST BE HER! THE CRIMSON FOX!>

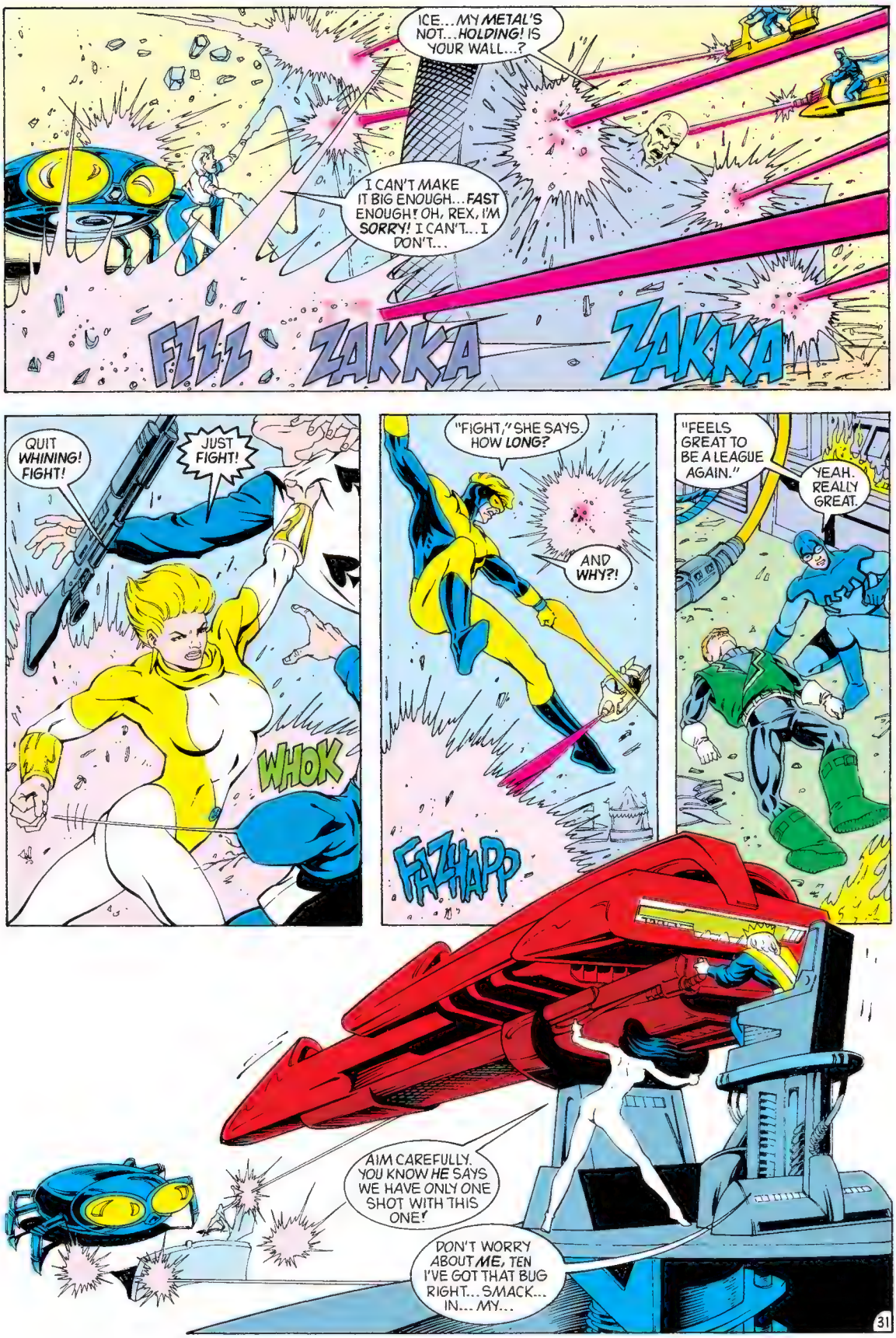
(WELL, LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING THEY CAN *REALLY* LOVE!)
(AH, OUR *FOX*! HOW DOES SHE DO IT?)
FOOSH
(I ASK YOU... *HOW* DOES SHE *DO* IT?)
NOW THIS IS *NICE*. FIRST SHIRT-SLEEVE WEATHER OF THE YEAR... NOTHING TO DO BUT TAKE A STROLL... A *SLOW* STROLL... TO PICK UP SOME FUEL FOR THE WEST FURN--
--NO. DON'T TELL ME--
SORRY ABOUT THIS, WALLY--
BIG BELLY BURGERS
BECKER'S!
BIG BELLY BURGERS
--BUT WE'RE *NEEDED*.
GREAT. I'M ALWAYS THE *KID* TO YOU, AREN'T I? JUST PICK ME UP AND SWING ME AROUND!


(LOWER IT SLOWLY, SLOWLY. HE MAY BE STRONG, BUT HE ISN'T INDESTRUCTIBLE.)
I HAVE IT, DOCTOR! TELL THEM TO SLACKEN THE CABLES, AND I'LL INSTALL IT WITH THE OTHER GENERATORS.
THANK YOU, AQUAMAN.
WITH YOUR HELP WE'LL HAVE THIS SUBOCEANIC FARM FUNCTIONING MONTHS AHEAD OF--
ARTHUR-- I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU--
--BUT THE LEAGUE IS IN TROUBLE. THE WORLD IS IN TROUBLE. AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU BESIDE ME... FOR MORE THAN OLD TIMES' SAKE.
OF COURSE, HAL.
DR. HOSHI...
SAY NO MORE, AQUAMAN. IF THE CRISIS IS THAT GREAT, OF COURSE YOU MUST GO.
AND PERHAPS DR. LIGHT SHOULD GO ALONG, AS WELL.
27

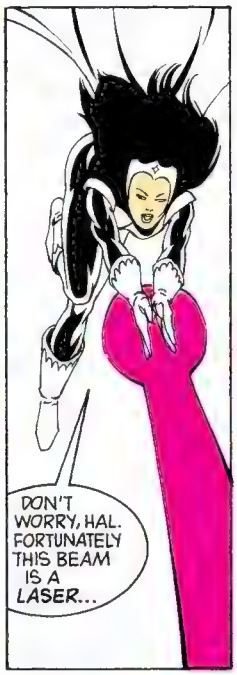

MAX, THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC WAS BAD!
AND THE CRASH OF THE HINDENBURG WAS WORSE!
AND I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK ABOUT PIA ZADORA'S CAREER!
BUT THIS-- THIS IS A DISASTER!
NOW, I'M NOT ONE TO TELL ANY-ONE, "I TOLD YOU SO"--
--BUT, MAX--
I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW!
I HAVE TO PRAY THE TROOPS MAKE IT OUT ALIVE, BUT IF THEY DO--
--THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!
ARRGH!
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT NEXT?
A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT MYSTERIOUS GUY IN THE TRENCHCOAT GAVE ME A MILLION BUCKS TO RUN THIS JOB!
SOON AS HE LEAVES, A DIFFERENT GUY GIVES ME SOME HIGH-TECH WEAPONS--
--AND TELLS ME TO TAKE ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
WELL, I'M DONE LETTING SOMEONE ELSE DEAL THE CARDS ACE.
YEAH, BOSS?
ACE THE MAN OF STEEL.
HUH-HUH! GOOD ONE, BOSS!
HEY! WHUT'S DAT? SUMTHIN' TICKLIN' ME?

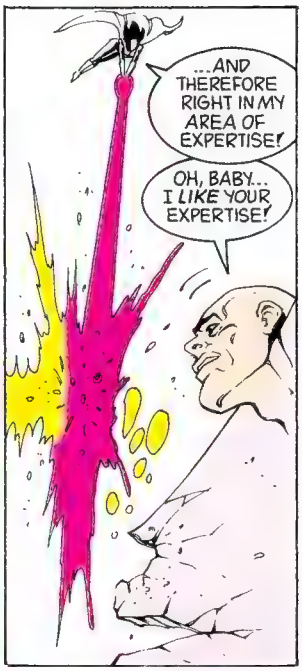

YO! WHERE'D MY ECHO SUIT GO?
THAT'S EXO-SKELETON, GENIUS.
GEEZ, HOW COME I ALWAYS HAVE TO FACE OFF WITH THE DUMB ONES?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THOUGH--
--WE NEVER SEEM TO MEET ANYTHING BUT!
IF FLASH IS HERE THE OTHERS CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!
BEHIND? I THINK YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THE ONE IN YOUR MIDST!
I MAY NOT BE AS POWERFUL AS BIG BLUE OVER THERE--OR AS FAST AS THE KID--
--BUT GIVE ME A DIVERSION AND I CAN HOLD MY OWN!
SNAPP

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING IN FLORIDA, ANYWAY?
CAN'T GET JOBS DEALING BLACKJACK IN VEGAS?
SCOFF WHILE YOU CAN, FLASH!
N-NO!
THE WORLD WILL RIDICULE YOU WHEN IT FINDS A DELEGATION OF DEAD MEN!
CAN'T LET HIM DO IT!
HAVE TO... IGNORE THE PAIN--
--AND PREVENT THIS TRAGEDY--
--WITH A BURST OF WELL-AIMED HEAT VISION!
AIEEE!
MY DEALING HAND!
WHAT'S THE SITUATION IN THE REST OF THE PARK, RALPH?
WELL, I HEAR SUGAR AND SPIKE HAVE DECIDED TO GO ON TOUR AS A RAP BAND!
RALPH--
OKAY, OKAY.
I HAVEN'T HEARD, BUT WE SHOULD BE OKAY! YOU MIGHT SAY--
--THAT IT'S IN THE CARDS!


ICE... MY METAL'S NOT... HOLDING! IS YOUR WALL...?
I CAN'T MAKE IT BIG ENOUGH... FAST ENOUGH! OH, REX, I'M SORRY! I CAN'T... I DON'T...
FIZZ
ZAKKA
ZAKKA
QUIT WHINING! FIGHT!
JUST FIGHT!
WHOK
"FIGHT," SHE SAYS. HOW LONG?
AND WHY?!
FAZHAPP
"FEELS GREAT TO BE A LEAGUE AGAIN."
YEAH. REALLY GREAT.
AIM CAREFULLY. YOU KNOW HE SAYS WE HAVE ONLY ONE SHOT WITH THIS ONE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, TEN I'VE GOT THAT BUG RIGHT... SMACK... IN... MY...

DOCTOR!
OH, NO, OH, NO!
GREEN LANTERN!
WHOOM

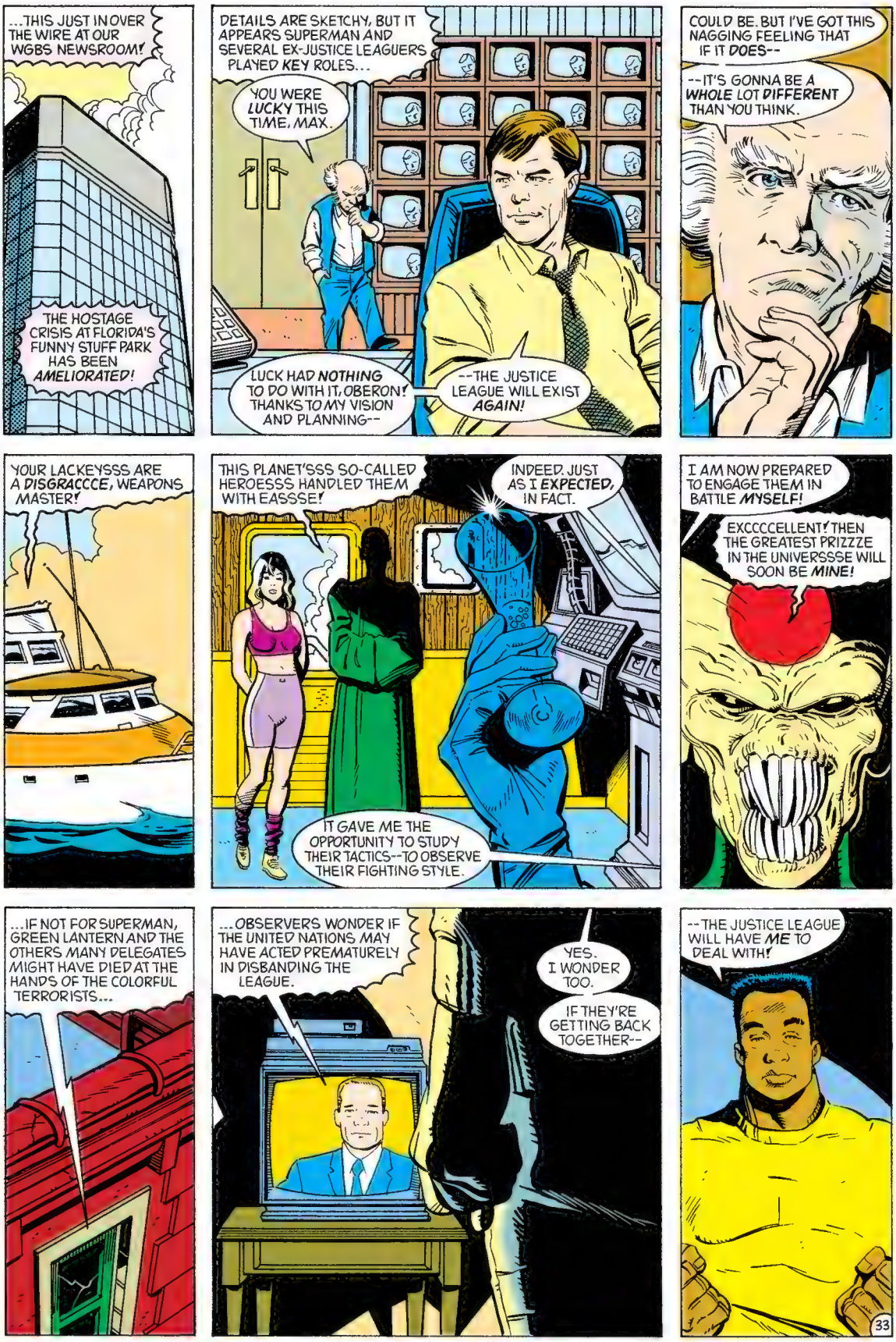

DON'T WORRY, HAL. FORTUNATELY THIS BEAM IS A LASER...


...AND THEREFORE RIGHT IN MY AREA OF EXPERTISE!
OH, BABY... I LIKE YOUR EXPERTISE!

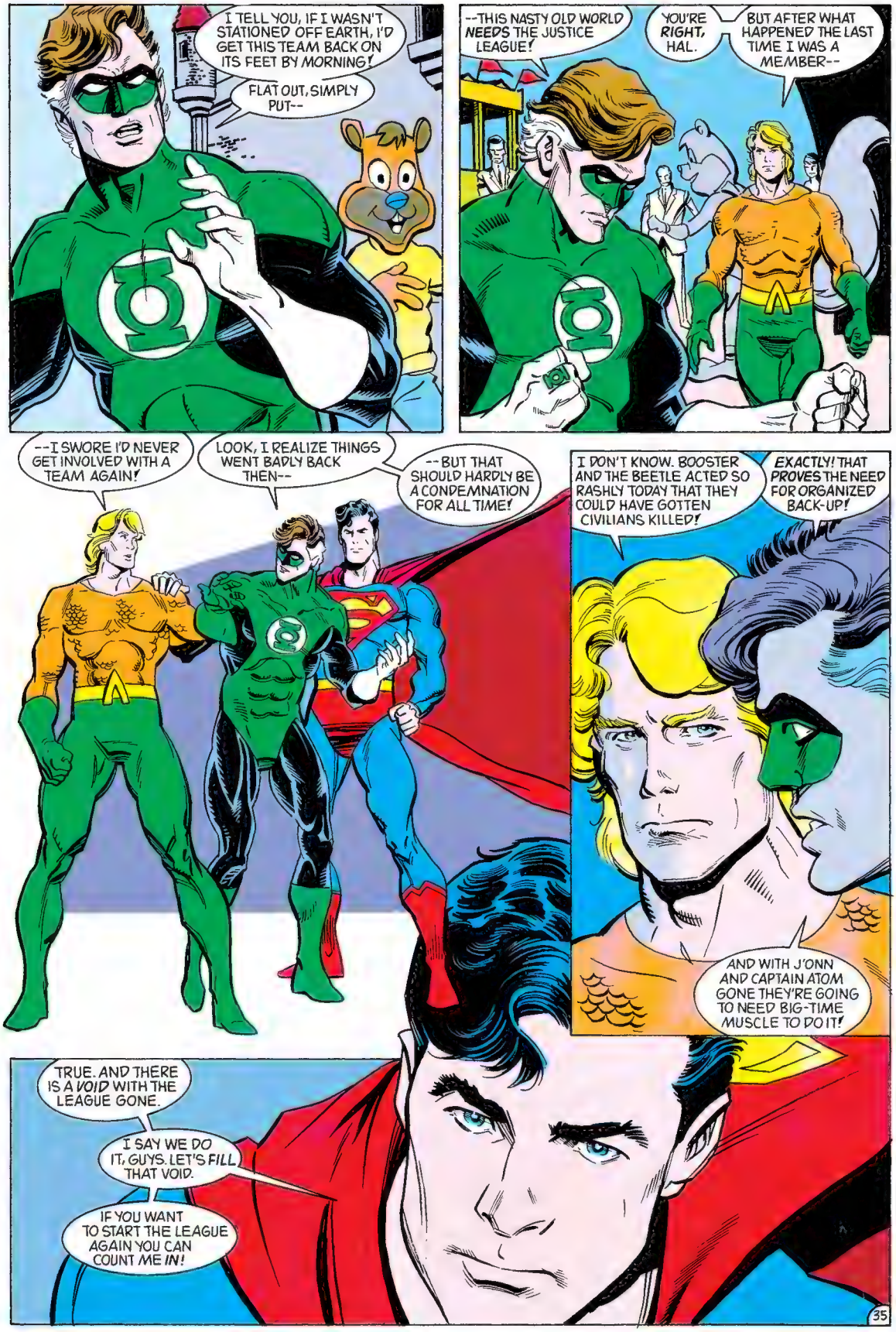
AH, ALWAYS IT IS MY FAVORITE PART OF ZE GAME--TO SHUFFLE ZE CARDS!
LISTEN, FOX, I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING THESE BUFFOONS BY MY--

--OH.
KRAK

WELL...
...I GUESS A LITTLE HELP NEVER HURTS.


...THIS JUST IN OVER THE WIRE AT OUR WGBS NEWSROOM!
THE HOSTAGE CRISIS AT FLORIDA'S FUNNY STUFF PARK HAS BEEN AMELIORATED!
DETAILS ARE SKETCHY, BUT IT APPEARS SUPERMAN AND SEVERAL EX-JUSTICE LEAGUERS PLAYED KEY ROLES...
YOU WERE LUCKY THIS TIME, MAX.
LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, OBERON! THANKS TO MY VISION AND PLANNING--
--THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL EXIST AGAIN!
COULD BE. BUT I'VE GOT THIS NAGGING FEELING THAT IF IT DOES--
--IT'S GONNA BE A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT THAN YOU THINK.
YOUR LACKEYSSS ARE A DISGRACCCE, WEAPONS MASTER!
THIS PLANET'SSS SO-CALLED HEROESSS HANDLED THEM WITH EASSSE!
INDEED. JUST AS I EXPECTED, IN FACT.
IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEIR TACTICS--TO OBSERVE THEIR FIGHTING STYLE.
I AM NOW PREPARED TO ENGAGE THEM IN BATTLE MYSELF!
EXCCCCELLENT! THEN THE GREATEST PRIZZZE IN THE UNIVERSSSE WILL SOON BE MINE!
...IF NOT FOR SUPERMAN, GREEN LANTERN AND THE OTHERS MANY DELEGATES MIGHT HAVE DIED AT THE HANDS OF THE COLORFUL TERRORISTS...
...OBSERVERS WONDER IF THE UNITED NATIONS MAY HAVE ACTED PREMATURELY IN DISBANDING THE LEAGUE.
YES. I WONDER TOO.
IF THEY'RE GETTING BACK TOGETHER--
--THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL HAVE ME TO DEAL WITH!

IF WE'D BUILT A CASTLE ON OUR J.L.I. RESORT ISLAND WE MIGHT STILL BE IN BUSINESS!
HEY... DO YOU SUPPOSE WE SHOULD TRY IT AGAIN?
NO WONDER I NEVER STAYED WITH THIS GROUP.
I HAVEN'T WORKED WITH THE J.L. IN QUITE SOME TIME BUT I'D SAY WE DID WELL HERE TODAY!
YEP! ANY ELEMENT I WANT!
COOL!
AGREED.
I CAN'T GET GUY TO WAKE UP!
GOOD. IF WE'RE LUCKY MAYBE HE'LL STAY OUT FOR A FEW HUNDRED YEARS.
STRANGE, I'VE HELPED THE LEAGUE OUT ON A FEW JOBS OVER THE YEARS BUT I NEVER JOINED FULL TIME.
BUT, CONSIDERING THE TROUBLE I ENCOUNTERED TODAY, THE BENEFITS OF A GROUP ARE QUITE APPARENT.
TOO BAD THE UNITED NATIONS DISBANDED THEM!
WHO CARES WHAT THE U.N. SAYS?
WE SURE DIDN'T NEED THEIR PERMISSION WHEN I WAS A MEMBER!
34


I TELL YOU, IF I WASN'T STATIONED OFF EARTH, I'D GET THIS TEAM BACK ON ITS FEET BY MORNING!
FLAT OUT, SIMPLY PUT--
--THIS NASTY OLD WORLD NEEDS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, HAL.
BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME I WAS A MEMBER--
--I SWORE I'D NEVER GET INVOLVED WITH A TEAM AGAIN!
LOOK, I REALIZE THINGS WENT BADLY BACK THEN--
--BUT THAT SHOULD HARDLY BE A CONDEMNATION FOR ALL TIME!
I DON'T KNOW. BOOSTER AND THE BEETLE ACTED SO RASHLY TODAY THAT THEY COULD HAVE GOTTEN CIVILIANS KILLED!
EXACTLY! THAT PROVES THE NEED FOR ORGANIZED BACK-UP!
AND WITH J'ONN AND CAPTAIN ATOM GONE THEY'RE GOING TO NEED BIG-TIME MUSCLE TO DO IT!
TRUE. AND THERE IS A VOID WITH THE LEAGUE GONE.
I SAY WE DO IT, GUYS. LET'S FILL THAT VOID.
IF YOU WANT TO START THE LEAGUE AGAIN YOU CAN COUNT ME IN!

NOBLE SENTIMENTS, GENTLEMEN, YET A QUESTION REMAINS.
ONE LEAGUE OR TWO?
WELLLL... I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT MUCH...
HAVING LIVED IN JAPAN IT WAS EASY TO SEE OTHER NATIONS IDENTIFY MORE WITH THE IDEA OF A WORLD LEAGUE.
THE BABE IS RIGHT! WE GOTTA HAVE TWO TEAMS!
ONE HIGH KICKIN', HIGH CALIBER TEAM FOR THE GOOD OLD U.S. OF A.--
--AND ONE BOZO STAFFED TEAM FOR THOSE FOREIGNERS.
I ABSOLUTELY, CATEGORICALLY REFUSE TO JOIN ANY TEAM WITH A CREEP LIKE--
CREEP? WHAT CREEP?
OH! YOU MUST MEAN THE BEETLE!
THIS MAY BE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
GOD, I MISS THE OLD DAYS!
GOOD LUCK, GUYS AND GALS! BUT I'M GONNA BOW OUT FOR THE TIME BEIN' AND TAKE A LITTLE R AND R!
OKAY, REXXIE, IF YOU GOTTA, BUT, WE'LL HOLD A SPOT OPEN FOR YOU FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT!
THAT SETTLES IT! AS OF NOW, WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS!
IF I GET REASSIGNED TO EARTH I'LL BE THERE AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME!
DREAM ON, JORDAN! THIS IS MY SECTOR NOW!
Y'KNOW, UNLESS I'M TOTALLY WRONG, WE JUST ENDED UP WITH GARDNER AGAIN!
NOBODY DESERVES THAT!
WHO CARES? THE IMPORTANT THING IS--WE HAVE A JUSTICE LEAGUE AGAIN!

LOOK OUT, BOZOS!

THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* IS ALIVE AND WELL--

--AND READY TO KICK *BUTT!*

BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HAAA!

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU -- IT'S BEEN A *BUSY* WEEK! METROPOLIS WEATHERED A BIZARRE ATTACK BY *ARMED INVADERS*...*

...AND ITS INSTIGATOR, THE SUPER-CRIMINAL *BRAINIAC*, FINALLY MET DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF OUR WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES -- UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR OWN *SUPERMAN!***

BUT VICTORY DID *NOT* COME EASILY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FLASHY COSTUMES. AND THAT VICTORY MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE --

-- WITHOUT THAT LOGISTIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUPPLIED BY THE BRILLIANT YOUNG BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS BECOME THIS CITY'S...

MAN OF THE HOUR

I'M CATHERINE GRANT. TONIGHT ON *NEWSMAKERS*, WE'LL LOOK AT THE AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF *LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND!*

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

ROGER STERN - WRITER
DENIS RODIER - FINISHER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND - ASSISTANT
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
AND A BIG *ACTION COMICS* WELCOME TO
JACKSON GUICE - PENCILLER

* *IN ADVENTURES #488, ACTION #675, MAN OF STEEL #10, & SUPERMAN #66.*
** *THE AFOREMENTIONED SUPERMAN #66 AND ADVENTURES #489... WHEW!*

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G-7446

"OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF HIM CAME ON THE TARMAC OF METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*... IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST POWER BLACKOUT IN CITY HISTORY..."

...BUSINESSES HAVE GONE UNDER AND GOOD PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS. WELL, I TELL YOU THIS...

...IF LEXCORP HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THAT, I AIM TO SEE TO IT THAT THOSE LOSSES ARE COVERED!

THEY SOON FOUND OUT!

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, LEXCORP CAPITAL FLOWED BACK INTO COUNTLESS LABORATORIES AND FACTORIES. MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN LAID OFF WERE CALLED BACK TO WORK!

METROPOLIS BEGAN TO *SMILE* AGAIN.

IT WAS THE CITY'S DARKEST HOUR IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. HARD TIMES HAD STRUCK OUR FORMERLY "RECESSION-PROOF" METROPOLIS...

...FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF LEX LUTHOR *THE FIRST*, AND PEOPLE WONDERED IF HIS UNKNOWN YOUNG HEIR REALLY HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS!

AND IF THINGS AREN'T YET QUITE BACK TO NORMAL, WE'VE AT LEAST FOUND REASON TO CHEER. YOU CAN HEAR IT FROM THE BOARDROOMS AND THE ASSEMBLY LINES...

* IN ISSUE #671.

...THERE'S NEW HOPE, NEW CONFIDENCE...

=UUNGH!=

MORE... MORE!

...AND -- SOME SAY NOT COINCIDENTALLY -- A NEW LUTHOR IN TOWN!

=UUNGH!=

MORE... *PLEASE*... JUST ONE MORE!

UUNGH!

WHAT ON EARTH--?!

COME... IN... DOCTOR. WE WERE... JUST FINISHING... UP!

RIGHT, 'BELA? RIGHT?!

...BACK WITH MORE AFTER THIS...

ALL RIGHT, I SUPPOSE THAT'LL DO FOR NOW. BUT I WANT TO SEE MORE REPS NEXT TIME!

IF I'VE COME AT A BAD TIME--!

NO... REALLY...

...AHH! THAT'S ENOUGH OF A WORKOUT FOR ONE DAY!

NOW THEN, DOCTOR, I BELIEVE YOU WERE TO GIVE ME A PHYSICAL?

LUCKY WOMAN.

OH, MUM... MEET MY NEW TRAINER, ARABELA...

...'BELA, THIS IS DR. GRETCHEN KELLEY... MY MOTHER!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR. TOMORROW THEN, MR. LUTHOR?

TONIGHT, DEAR--AND PLEASE, CALL ME LEX.

HMPH...

...PUSH UP YOUR SLEEVE... LEX!

NOT OVERDOING IT, ARE YOU?

HARDLY! I FIND EXERCISE INVIGORATING. IT WON'T PLAY HOB WITH MY PHYSICAL, WILL IT?

NO.

BUT THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I MEANT.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOU HAVE SIMILAR TASTES...

...TO THE FIRST LEX LUTHOR? WELL, GENES WILL OUT, Y'KNOW!

I WASN'T AWARE THAT THERE WAS A GENE FOR *WOMANIZING!*

HERE, NOW! JUST BECAUSE HE HAD AN EYE FOR THE LADIES--!

FOR A LOT OF LADIES... NOT THAT ALL OF THEM *WERE* LADIES!

AS I RECALL, HE HAD AN EYE FOR *YOU*, ONCE 'PON A TIME!

...AND NOW, BACK TO NEWSMAKERS!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I DIDN'T SET OUT TO BECOME THE OLDER WOMAN IN HIS LIFE! IT... IT JUST HAPPENED.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.

HE PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT, DIDN'T HE?

YOU BOTH HAVE.

SHHH... I KNOW. I KNOW.

AND FOR THAT, I'M TRULY SORRY.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN METROPOLIS--

-- LUTHOR HAS WORKED HARD TO FILL HIS FATHER'S LEGENDARY SHOES... COMING TO THE AID OF BOTH CITY GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

AND NOW, WITH THE MAYHEM OF THE PAST WEEK BEHIND HIM, THE 21-YEAR-OLD HEIR IS ABOUT TO LEAP HEADLONG INTO METROPOLIS'S SOCIAL WHIRL--

--HOSTING A BLACK TIE CHARITY BENEFIT TOMORROW NIGHT ABOARD THE ELDER LUTHOR'S FAMED SEA QUEEN.

-GALAXY FILE PHOTO-

LEXCORP

WHAT?!

MORE AN OCEAN LINER THAN A YACHT, THE QUEEN WILL ENTER METROPOLIS HARBOR TOMORROW AFTERNOON IN PREPARATION FOR THE EVENING'S GALA.

THISEL... LIP

SO, THE LUTHOR WHELP IS THROWING A *PARTY*, IS HE?

HE'LL NO DOUBT HELICOPTER FROM HIS POSH HI-TECH PENTHOUSE TO THE COMFORT OF HIS SHIP.

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS-- STUDYING THE WORLD IN WHICH YOU MOVE, MY YOUNG MR. LUTHOR-- HAVE BEEN QUITE ENLIGHTENING! YOUR INNER CIRCLE IS SO SECURE, SO LUXURIOUS...

...SO UNLIKE THIS *ROTTING WAREHOUSE* I HAVE HAD TO OCCUPY--

--WHILE I LABORED IN VAIN TO PLAN YOUR DEMISE!

KERAK

BUT MY DAYS OF FRUSTRATION SOON WILL BE OVER!

MY SCHEMATICS SHOW THAT YOUR YACHT IS FAR LESS SECURE THAN YOUR SKYSCRAPER QUARTERS, LUTHOR.

THIS PARTY WILL PROVIDE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL MY CONTRACT TO SNUFF OUT YOUR LIFE...

...AND TO TEACH METROPOLIS TO *FEAR* THE *HELLGRAMMITE!*

24 HOURS LATER...

GOOD TO SEE THAT REPAIRS TO THE *NEWS-TIME BUILDING* ARE PROGRESSING! EVERY-ONE SEEMS TO BE BOUNCING BACK FROM BRAINIAC'S ATTACK.

WE WERE *LUCKY*... DAMAGES WERE PRETTY MUCH KEPT TO A MINI-MUM, THANKS TO QUICK INTERVENTION.

THE WORLD'S *SUPER-COMMUNITY* REALLY CAME THROUGH. EVERY-ONE PULLED TOGETHER, EVEN ...

... TEAM-LUTHOR!

TAKE FIVE IF YOU LIKE, SUPERMAN! WE'RE ON THE JOB!

HMM... FROM WHAT THE BATMAN TOLD ME, *TEAM LUTHOR* DID A *GOOD JOB* IN FIGHTING BRAINIAC'S WARRIORS.

YOUNG LEX HAS PUT HIS SECURITY FORCE TO MUCH BETTER USE THAN LEX THE FIRST EVER DID... HE SEEMS DETERMINED TO MAKE UP FOR THE SINS OF HIS FATHER.

EVEN SO, I'M STILL NOT SURE I LIKE THE IDEA OF *ANY* CORPORATION MAINTAINING ITS OWN SQUAD OF *FLYING HUMAN TANKS.*

XCORP

5:10

WHOA! LOOK AT THE TIME--I'D BETTER STEP ON IT! I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET LOIS RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

LET'S SEE... YES, THERE SHE IS... JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

WELL, HELLO, STRANGER.

HELLO YOURSELF. BEEN WAITING LONG?

NOT THAT LONG. I DIDN'T MIND.

I'M GLAD.

YOU'RE GORGEOUS --YOU KNOW THAT?

MMM, HOLD THAT THOUGHT! RIGHT NOW, YOU'D BETTER GET INTO YOUR TUX.

I'LL KEEP WATCH UNTIL YOU'RE--!

DONE!

HOW DO I LOOK?

WOW!

YOU FILL OUT A TUX VERY NICELY, MR. KENT.

WHY, THANK YOU, MS. LANE! AND THANKS FOR PICKING IT UP FOR ME!

MY PLEASURE.

NOW... TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS BIG EMERGENCY THAT TOOK YOU OUT OF TOWN THIS MORNING!

OH, THAT! SOME INTERNATIONAL DIGNITARIES WERE TAKEN HOSTAGE, AND SUPERMAN LENT SOME FRIENDS A HAND IN THEIR RESCUE*... THAT'S ALL.

C-L-A-R-K--!

CAN'T SAY ANY MORE RIGHT NOW, HON... TOO MANY EARS AROUND.

WELL, ALL RIGHT...

"... AS LONG AS YOU GIVE ME CHAPTER AND VERSE LATER."

SEA QUEEN, THIS IS SEADUCTION, I HAVE ANOTHER LOAD OF GUESTS FOR MR. L'S PARTY... OVER.

ROGER, SEADUCTION...

*IN JUSTICE LEAGUE SPECTACULAR #1, STILL ON SALE!

"...THE CAPTAIN IS READY FOR 'EM!"

THAT'S IT, FOLKS... WATCH YOUR STEP! WELCOME ABOARD THE SEA QUEEN!

MR. KENT... MS. LANE... HOW GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US AGAIN! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

A VERY LONG TIME, CAPTAIN...

...YEARS, ACTUALLY! I'M SURPRISED THAT HE REMEM-BERED--!

NO ONE COULD EVER FORGET YOU, LOIS. YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH... IT WAS YEARS AGO THAT WE WERE HERE. I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT NIGHT...

...HOW THE ELDER LUTHOR TRIED TO MAKE A GIFT OF THE DRESS HE'D "LOANED" YOU FOR THE EVENING...

"...OR HOW YOU GAVE IT BACK TO HIM!

"IT'S A GOOD THING FOR YOU THAT I TAKE A 'LONG' IN A DINNER JACKET!

"THINGS JUST SEEMED TO GO DOWN-HILL AFTER THAT..."

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, GRINGO!

"THERE WAS NO WAY THAT CLARK KENT COULD DEAL WITH THE TERRORISTS WHO'D SEIZED CONTROL OF THE SHIP DURING OUR LITTLE *TÊTE-À-TÊTE* WITH LUTHOR...

"...SO I RESISTED JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM ANGRY.

"THEN, I WAS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE TAKE-OVER IN A MUCH MORE *DIRECT* MANNER.

"REMEMBER HOW OUTRAGED WE WERE, WHEN WE DISCOVERED THAT LUTHOR HAD BEEN EXPECTING THE ATTACK AND HAD ORDERED HIS SECURITY TEAM TO HOLD BACK... TO SEE IF SUPERMAN WOULD APPEAR?

"HE INTENDED TO USE THE SITUATION AS A TEST... MY 'JOB INTERVIEW,' AS IT WERE."

"HOW COULD I FORGET? BETWEEN YOUR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT HIS EMPLOYMENT OFFER, AND THE MAYOR DEPUTIZING YOU TO ARREST LUTHOR FOR RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, THE OLD BOY WAS *FURIOUS!*"

"YES. LUTHOR BECAME MY SWORN ENEMY THAT NIGHT ...AND SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE TRYING TO KILL ME."

WELL, *THIS* EVENING SHOULD BE DIFFERENT!

OH? AND HERE I HAD MY JACKET CLEANED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

OHHH, *YOU!*

DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS ABOUT YOU THAT NIGHT?

YES, LOIS. I DO...

♪ YOU MUST'VE BEEN A BEAU-TI-FUL BA-BEE

♪ YOU MUST'VE BEEN A BEAU-TI-FUL CHILD ♪

IS THAT *OUR HOST* SINGING?

AND PLAYING! HE MUST HAVE A TASTE FOR OLD STANDARDS!

THERE'S ONE PARTY-GOER WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE THEM... THAT'S GEORGE MARKHAM, ISN'T IT?

YES... RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE WAS MANEUVERING TO BECOME LEXCORP'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER... UNTIL JUNIOR SHOWED UP.

SPEAKING OF WHOM... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO FINISH THAT NUMBER. LET'S GO SAY HELLO BEFORE HE LAUNCHES INTO "*FEELINGS!*"

AH, MS. LANE, HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

AND YOU MUST BE MR. KENT! I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING YOU, SIR! I'M SO GLAD YOU BOTH ACCEPTED MY INVITATION!

WE WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD!

YES. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU, AS WELL, LUTHOR. YOU'VE CREATED QUITE A STIR IN TOWN.

WELL, IT'S NOT TOO HARD TO CREATE A STIR WHEN YOU INHERIT THE RESOURCES I DID.

TAKE THIS SHIP... *MARVELOUS*, ISN'T IT? YOU TWO -- YOU'RE REPORTERS -- YOU'VE SEEN THE WORLD! BUT I'M STILL GETTING USED TO ALL THIS!

BACK IN AUSTRALIA, I'D NEVER BEEN ON ANYTHING BIGGER THAN A PADDLE STEAMER --

--AND NOW, HERE I AM, THE *OWNER* OF THE GRANDEST SHIP AFLOAT!

THE WAY I SEE IT, WHEN A BLOKE HAS SUCH RICHES THRUST UPON HIM --

"--HE'D BLOODY WELL BETTER PUT 'EM TO GOOD USE!

"IF HE DOESN'T, SOMEONE'S LIKELY TO COME ALONG AND TAKE IT ALL AWAY!"

AT LONG LAST, THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS STRUCK LAST THANKSGIVING* SHALL BE FULFILLED.

AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS OF PLANNING AND WAITING, MARKHAM HAD BETTER HAVE MY FINAL PAYMENT READY, OR--!

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WHOOSH

TEAM-LUTHOR! DID THEY SEE ME?

NO... GOOD!

THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER OBSTACLES NOW.

*IN ISSUE #673.

NO WORD FROM THAT MONSTER IN MONTHS! FACE IT, GEORGE, YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN!

CLARK? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I'M NOT SURE. FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, A TEAM-LUTHOR SQUAD JUST SHOT BY... HEADED UP RIVER AT GREAT SPEED.

MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK IT OUT--!

OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

LO--MPH!

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING... AND WE DESERVE A LITTLE FUN! I INTEND TO DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN METROPOLIS!

ANYONE I KNOW?

CHECK YOUR MIRROR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WISH TO PROPOSE A TOAST!

TO THE LOVELY LADY WHO HAS CAPTURED MY HEART... TO METROPOLIS!

TO METROPOLIS!

A MOST TOUCHING TOAST, LUTHOR!

TOO BAD IT WILL BE YOUR LAST!

KREESH!

MY GOD!

NOT HERE... NOT NOW!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE

WHAT IS IT?!

IT'S HORRIBLE-- HORRIBLE!

IT'S GOT LUTHOR!

OGOD OGOD OGOD OGOD

CLARK--!

STAY DOWN, LOIS!

DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS, BUT THIS IS CLEARLY A JOB--

GENTLEMEN

--FOR SUPERMAN!

BDAM-DAM-DAM

HAH! I THOUGHT THERE'D BE SOME SECURITY PERSONNEL SCATTERED AMONGST YOUR GUESTS, LUTHOR!

HE... HE'S TAKING MY FIRE -- AND NOT EVEN FLINCHING!

BULLETS CAN'T HURT ME! BUT YOUR EMPLOYER... AH, HE'S ANOTHER MATTER!

PTING

DON'T... SHOOT!

DON'T WORRY, LUTHOR... HE CAN'T SHOOT WITH HIS HAND COCOONED TO THE WALL!

WHAT THE --?!

YOU SEE? I WOULDN'T REALLY LET HIM HARM YOU! THAT'S MY JOB!

HAH-HAH-HAH-HA!

YOU FREAK! WHAT'VE YOU DONE TO ME?

THE HELLGRAMMITE IS NO MERE "FREAK!" I SHOULD EVISCERATE YOU JUST ON PRINCIPLE.

YES, LET'S SHOW YOUR BOSS WHAT AWAITS HIM!

N-NO! STOP! DON'T --!

DON'T WORRY. "HELLGRAMMITE" HERE ISN'T GOING TO BE HURTING ANYONE!

WHU --?!

SUPERMAN!

THANK GOD.

KRAKT

OW!

UNHAND ME!

I HADN'T EXPECTED YOU HERE, SUPERMAN...

...NOTHING IN MY READING INDICATED AN INTEREST ON YOUR PART IN THE SOCIAL SET. STILL, YOU'LL NOT AGAIN CATCH ME BY SURPRISE!

MISTER--

WOK

--I DON'T NEED SURPRISE TO HANDLE YOU!

?! THAT FELT LIKE PUNCHING TEMPERED STEEL! WHAT'S THIS GUY MADE OF?

PLUNG

YOU ARE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT, SIR--

--BUT YOU'LL NOT FIND ME LACKING IN EITHER ENDURANCE OR POWER!

NO KIDDING...

...HE CHUCKED THIS GRAND PIANO AS EASILY AS ROGER CLEMENS PITCHES!

PLUNG

PLANG

GOOD CATCH--

--ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU HOLD ONTO IT!

HEY! WHAT--?!

THAT GLOP HE SHOT FROM HIS TAIL IS SETTING UP FASTER THAN AN EPOXY...

...AND IT'S HOLDING EVEN TIGHTER! NO WAY I CAN GET LOOSE--

KERTANG!

--WITHOUT WRECKING THE PIANO!

SORRY, LUTHOR, BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN AFFORD ANOTHER!

HE *SHREDDED* THE PIANO WITH HARDLY A MOMENT'S PAUSE. I MUST FALL BACK... PLAN ANEW...

HELLGRAMMITE!

SUPERMAN, *STOP HIM!*

DON'T WORRY, MS. LANE!

HE'S NOT--

--GETTING AWAY--

--THAT EASILY!

WHUUNGH!

"ARE YA REALLY SURE YA WANNA DO THIS?

SPOOSH!

"I MEAN, IT'S GETTIN' DARK--"

--AN SUICIDE SLUM AIN'T THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN TOWN!

IT'S SAFE, IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

YOU CALL THE ACE O' CLUBS SAFE?!

WELL, RELATIVELY... AT LEAST, SINCE BIBBO BOUGHT IT!

IT'S YER FUNERAL, PAL, BUT I STILL SAY--

HOLEE--!

EH? WHAT IS IT?!

YOU TELL ME!

OH, MAN, I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! IT...

...IT'S HUSQUE!!

UUUH--

TL-7 TO BASE. WE'RE GOING TO NEED HELP--

"--THIS MONSTER'S TOO MUCH FOR US!"

WELL, THAT MOVE WAS LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL! HELLGRAMMITE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AT THE SLIGHTEST DIS-ADVANTAGE UNDERWATER...

...IN FACT, HE'S SLIPPERIER THAN EVER! IF I'M GOING TO PUT AN END TO THIS, I'D BETTER GET A GOOD GRIP--

--ON THE NEAREST APPENDAGE!

AH, THAT GOT HIS ATTENTION!

NOW, LET'S TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO--HEY!

DIS-GUSTING!

STRUGGLE ALL YOU WANT, FELLA! AFTER THAT...

...NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL MAKE ME LET GO!

SSSSSSSS

ONCE I'VE BURNT OFF THIS SUPER-GLUE OF YOURS--

--I'M GOING TO--?!

OMIGOD...

...HIS TAIL *WASN'T* A PROSTHETIC. IT WAS ACTUALLY, ORGANICALLY, PART OF HIM.

WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED, HE BROKE AWAY FROM THE SECTION I'D GRABBED. I'M NOT SURE HOW HE DID IT, BUT HE GOT AWAY, LEAVING NO TRACES...

...EXCEPT FOR *THIS*, OF COURSE. I REALIZE THAT IT'S A LITTLE GRUESOME, BUT WE'D BEST HAVE IT ANALYZED.

;ULP;-SURE.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THIS, MS. LANE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN. I'VE SEEN WORSE.

I'M SURE WE'LL TURN THAT CREATURE UP EVENTUALLY, SUPERMAN!

YOU ARE AGAIN TO BE COMMENDED, SIR--

--YOU SAVED SEVERAL LIVES TONIGHT, MY OWN INCLUDED! I'M GLAD YOU WERE AROUND... TEAM-LUTHOR CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE, AFTER ALL!

HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?

YOUR THANKS ARE ENOUGH, LUTHOR...

...MY SERVICES ARE NOT FOR HIRE.

NO... NO, OF COURSE NOT...

STILL... YOU *COULD* BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO LEXCORP... AS AN *ADVISOR*, PERHAPS?

ZEEEEEEEEEEE

THAT'S THE HYPERSONIC TONE FROM JIM OLSEN'S *SIGNAL WATCH*... WHAT TROUBLE HAS HE GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO NOW?

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME... OTHER EMERGENCIES CALL!

WE MUST TALK AGAIN, SUPERMAN! *SUPERMAN?*

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, LEX. HE'S A HARD MAN TO PIN DOWN.

I SUPPOSE SO.

AND WHERE HAS YOUR FIANCÉ GOTTEN TO?

OH, CLARK... HAS ALREADY HEADED BACK INTO TOWN... TO FILE THE STORY.

A SHAME. WE SHOULDN'T PERMIT THE EVENING TO BE A TOTAL LOSS. WOULD YOU CARE TO DANCE?

UH, FRANKLY, I'M A BIT FRAZZLED. MAYBE ANOTHER TIME.

CERTAINLY...

"... ANOTHER TIME."

BUSY NIGHT FOR SUPER

DAMN...

SEA
ATTA

by an all-new
ly, or at least
ing

"... TEAM-LUTHOR DEFEATED IN CONFLICT!" DEFEATED, HAPPERSEN!

PLANET

BUSY NIGHT FOR SUPERMAN

TWIN BATTLES ROCK METROPOLIS-TEAM LUTHOR DEFEATED IN CONFLICT

SEA QUEEN ATTACKED

PARTY CRASHER IDENTIFIED AS HELLGRAMMITE

RESCUED WOMAN RECOVERING AT METROPOLIS GENERAL

WHAT CAN I SAY, MR. L?

THE BRICK-MAN WAS JUST TOO TOUGH FOR OUR BOYS. IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, IT APPARENTLY ELUDED SUPERMAN--!

RING

NOT GOOD ENOUGH, HAPPERSEN --AN ENTIRE ARMORED FLYING SQUAD WAS INCAPACITATED! THAT REFLECTS BADLY ON LEXCORP... BADLY ON ME!

DESPITE MY POPULARITY--AND SUPERMAN'S INABILITY TO FIND EITHER HELLGRAMMITE OR THIS "HUSQUE" CREATURE--

--MY POLLSTERS SAY THAT PEOPLE STILL PLACE MORE OF THEIR FAITH IN HIM THAN ME!

GET THE PHONE.

RING RING

YES, SIR.

IF I AM EVER TO SUPPLANT THE MAN OF STEEL IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE CITIZENRY, I MUST BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEM BETTER THAN HE!

TEAM-LUTHOR IS NOT ENOUGH. I NEED MY OWN SUPER-HERO... SOMEONE WITH THE POWER TO RIVAL SUPERMAN... SOMEONE WHO WILL ANSWER ONLY TO ME.

WHAT?! YOU'RE SURE--?

MR. L, THIS IS SO... I DON'T KNOW QUITE... THAT IS, I --

WHAT IS IT, HAPPERSEN? SPIT IT OUT!

THERE'S BEEN AN... INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY IN THE SOUTHWEST...

LEXAERO PROVING GROUNDS, OROGRANDE, NEW MEXICO. TWO HOURS LATER...

IT'S... IT'S AMAZING, SIR! AN ASTOUNDING FIND--!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, HAPPERSEN. NOW, WHERE IS IT?

STRAIGHT AHEAD...

...HERE IN HANGAR SEVEN.

THAT IS THE SPACECRAFT? I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING LARGER.

REMARKABLE, ISN'T IT? LESS THAN FIVE METERS FROM NOSE TO TAIL--

--YET POSSESSING A PROPULSION SYSTEM THAT BROUGHT IT TO EARTH FROM COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AWAY--

--AND ABSOLUTELY *INVISIBLE* TO RADAR! WE WERE SO LUCKY TO MAKE A VISUAL SIGHTING!

I'M GEOFFREY STINSON, RESEARCH SUPERVISOR... WE'RE LEARNING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS FROM THIS, MR. LUTHOR... SIMPLY *EXTRAORDINARY!*

YES... YES, AND I'LL WANT A FULL REPORT LATER, STINSON. BUT RIGHT THIS MOMENT, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THE SHIP'S *PILOT!*

RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR...

...DOCTOR BINDER IS OUR TOP MAN IN XENOBIOLOGY. HE WAS WITH THE TEAM THAT LOCATED THE CRASH SITE.

AND YOU'VE KEPT THE PILOT UNDER CONSTANT SUPERVISION, DOCTOR?

THAT'S CORRECT, MR. LUTHOR. I ASSUME YOU WISH TO SEE OUR PATIENT?

I DO, INDEED.

I MUST ASK YOU TO SUIT UP, THEN...

,,, WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY TRACES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE BACTERIA OR VIRUSES ON THE SUBJECT YET, BUT I'D RATHER NOT TAKE CHANCES.

SUSPENDERS AND A BELT-- EH, DOCTOR?

UH,,, YES. WELL, AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY,,,

THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, DR. BERNSTEIN.

HOW IS OUR PATIENT, ROBERTA?

SHOWING STEADY IMPROVEMENT, JAMES.

WHAT IS HER CONDITION, DR. BERNSTEIN?

MIRACULOUS, SIR. SHE CAME THROUGH THE CRASH OF HER SHIP WITHOUT A SINGLE BRUISE OR SCRATCH.

SHE WAS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE IMPACT, OF COURSE--

--BUT, IF HER VITAL SIGNS ARE ANYTHING LIKE OURS-- AND THEY CERTAINLY SEEM TO BE--SHE SHOULD BE COMING TO SHORTLY.

I'D LIKE TO OBSERVE THE PATIENT IN PRIVATE, DR. BERNSTEIN. YOU AND DR. BINDER MAY GO.

SIR? I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE--

I WASN'T ASKING FOR A FURTHER OPINION, DOCTOR.

AHEM, IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROBERTA. COME ON.

IT IS HER. TO THINK THAT FATE HAS BROUGHT HER TO ME,,, IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN RELIGIOUS.

UHHHHH...

,,, WHA? WHERE AM I?

AMONG FRIENDS, SUPERGIRL.

Y-YOU KNOW ME?

NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE, MY DEAR.

YOU SOUND FAMILIAR, BUT--?

IT'S THIS BLOODY MASK...

...DISTORTS THINGS SO THAT MY OWN MOTHER WOULDN'T KNOW ME.

THERE, THAT'S BETTER.

YOU... YOU'RE LEX LUTHOR!

THAT I AM, LOVE.

LOVE?

OH, YES --YES!

I LOVE YOU, LEX LUTHOR!

DO YOU NOW?

I THOUGHT THAT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER.

REALLY? WELL, WE'RE TOGETHER NOW, AREN'T WE?

AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME... THAT I PROMISE YOU!

CONFUSED? DON'T WORRY... ALL WILL BE MADE FRIGHTENINGLY CLEAR *NEXT ISSUE*, WHEN WE REVEAL EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT *SUPERGIRL*, AND THE *MAN OF STEEL* DISCOVERS THAT ALL IS FAIR...

"...IN LOVE & WAR!"

(IT'S COMICS HISTORY IN THE MAKING!)

THIS TIME WE'RE GONNA DO IT MY WAY.
THIS TIME I'M RUNNIN' THE SHOW.
FROM NOW ON, THE BRAND-SPANKIN'-NEW--
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA
IS GONNA TAKE THEIR MARCHIN' ORDERS FROM ME!
AND IF THEY DON'T, I'LL POWER RING THEIR LOUSY BUTTS ALL THE WAY TO PLUTO!

BORN AGAIN

Once

AND THESE TWO *LOSERS* MIGHT BE THE FIRST TO MAKE THE TRIP!

WHERE YOU WEAK SISTERS BEEN? YOU'RE OVER A MINUTE LATE!

HOME SWEET HOME. I LEFT THE *CONGLOMERATE* FOR THIS?

YOU SPEND TIME IN A CAVE, YOU EXPECT TO SEE A FEW *RATS!*

LIKE *GARDNER* THERE, FOR INSTANCE.

SPEAKING OF CAVES, BEETLE, CAN'T WE FIND SOMETHING *BETTER?*

SHOULDN'T THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HANG OUT IN SOMETHING *CLASSY?*

LIKE A LUXURY *PENT-HOUSE?*

DESPERO, *er*, L-RON...*um*, TRASHED THE PLACE, BUT WE'LL FIX IT UP, BOOSTER.

ATENNNNNNNN-- *SHUN!*

THE FIRST-EVER MEETING OF GUY GARDNER'S JUSTICE LEAGUE IS NOW CALLED TO ORDER!

WHO ELECTED *YOU* CHAIRMAN?

YEAH! WHAT IF ONE OF *US* WANTS THE JOB?

GOOD POINT. I'LL *FIGHT* YOU TO THE *DEATH* FOR IT, BUG.

DEATH DUELS DO SEEM THE PROPER WAY TO ESTABLISH LEADERS.

OBOY.

I'M IN LOVE.

AW, NOT *HER!*

ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR BATTLE I WILL GLADLY FACE--

--AND DEFEAT--

--THE VICTOR.

AS YOU KNOW, BRAINIAC'S WARWORLD HAS ANNIHILATED MY HOME WORLD ALMERAC.

MAXIMA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YEP. I AM DEFINITELY IN LOVE.

AW, GO BACK WHERE YA CAME FROM, SPACE CHICK!

I CANNOT RETURN UNTIL I FIND A SUITABLE MATE TO HELP ME REBUILD, AND SIT AT MY SIDE AS KING.

FORTUNATELY, MY INTENDED IS HERE ON EARTH.

HEY, BABE, WHAT IF I'M NOT INTERESTED.

I'M INTERESTED. I AM MOST DEFINITELY INTERESTED.

I MIGHT JUST DO IT--ON ONE CONDITION...

...WE START THE HONEYMOON NOW!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, LITTLE ONE.

ON THIS ENTIRE WORLD THERE EXISTS BUT ONE MAN WHO MEETS MY STANDARDS.

"HE WALKS AMONG YOU AS A *GOD* WALKS AMONG HIS *FAITHFUL.*

"HIS COURAGE AND STRENGTH ARE *BEYOND* LEGEND--

"--HIS POWER *LIMITLESS.*

"YOU CALL HIM *SUPERMAN.*

"I WOULD CALL HIM *MINE.*"

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GREAT IT IS TO HAVE THE TEAM BACK *TOGETHER* AGAIN!

WE WON'T MESS UP THIS TIME, GANG. WITH ME AT THE HELM--

--THE LEAGUE WILL HIT HEIGHTS UNDREAMED OF.

NO.

THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* IS NOT ONE OF YOUR TOYS.

IT DOESN'T EXIST TO FEED YOUR *EGO.*

IT EXISTS BECAUSE THERE'S A *NEED* FOR IT--AND BECAUSE *WE* SAY IT DOES.

THE LEAGUE IS *OURS,* MAX. *NOT YOURS!*

WOW.

SUPERMAN IS *RIGHT*, MISTER MAXWELL LORD! YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU COULD SET OUR AGENDA AND *BOSS* US AROUND!

WHATEVER SUPERMAN SAYS WE SHOULD DO I AGREE WITH!

Umm... THANKS.

ICE, BABY! LISTEN TO *REASON* HERE!

NO, *YOU* LISTEN, MISTER HIGH-AND-MIGHTY!

WE *WON'T* BE MANIPULATED BY YOU *EVER AGAIN!*

OUCH.

THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR US. LET'S GO.

I'M WITH *YOU*, SUPERMAN!

I *DON'T* BELIEVE IT.

WHAT'S GOTTEN TO *HER?* SHE'S ALWAYS *SO MEEK* AND *MILD*...

SUPERMAN GOT TO HER--THAT'S WHAT!

LOOKS LIKE GUY GARDNER FINALLY HAS SOME *COMPETITION*, AND I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.

SEE YOU AROUND, MAX.

YOU'RE LOSIN' 'EM, MAX.

OH, I'LL GET THEM *BACK*, OBERON! I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING *SO BIG, SO COLOSSAL--*

--EVEN SUPERMAN WILL *BEG* ME TO COME BACK!

I FAIL TO UNDERSSSTAND YOUR NEED TO PERFORM THISSS MISSSION IN THE PRESSSENCE OF OTHERSSS, WEAPONSSS MASSSTER.

CHEE, DON'TCHA GET IT? THE *BIGGER* THE *MISSION* THE *BIGGER* THE *REPUTA-TION!*

AND THUS THE *BIGGER* THE *FEE.*

I'VE BEAT THE BEST IN THE UNIVERSE. THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* WILL *HARDLY* THREATEN ME.

EXXXCELENT. THEN YOU WILL BRING *ME MY PRIZE?*

FOR SURE! UNLESS HE DECIDES TO KEEP IT FOR HIMSELF, THAT IS!

NEVER. I NEVER BREAK A DEAL. THE DOMINION IS PAYING WELL FOR MY SERVICES--

--AND I WILL GLADLY DELIVER.

I MANIPULATED THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG INTO TAKING ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SO I COULD *STUDY* THEIR *BATTLE TECHNIQUES.*

WARP. ITEM NINE.

I WAS *NOT* IMPRESSED. FOR A MAN OF MY TALENTS, THIS WILL BE *CHILD'S PLAY.*

WARP. ITEM THIRTY.

THE WEAPONS I'M DRAWING OUT OF MY *DIMENSION-AL CAVE* WILL ENSURE MY VICTORY.

WARP. ITEM 102.

PREPARE YOURSELVES, JUSTICE LEAGUERS. THE *WEAPONS MASTER--*

"--IS ON THE HUNT!"

IT'S TRUE. I REALLY WAS A POWERFUL, RICH INDUSTRIALIST!

EARTH'S PALTRY SYSTEM OF WEALTH IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME.

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT MONEY? AYYY-CARAMBA!

WELL, EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT?

NOTHING YOU ARE ABLE TO DELIVER, TINY ONE.

HEY! I THOUGHT I HEARD SUMTHIN' RUSTLIN' BACK THERE--

YOU DID.

SAKK

WHO--

ARRGH!

THOSE IN THE UNIVERSE WHO KNOW ME CALL ME WEAPONS MASTER.

MY CURRENT EMPLOYER HAS ASSIGNED ME THE TASK OF RETRIEVING A RARE AND SPECIAL ITEM FROM THIS CAVE.

THEN YOUR EMPLOYER WILL BE DISAPPOINTED!

ATTACK THOSE WHO STAND WITH MAXIMA--

--AND YOU ATTACK MAXIMA HERSELF!

Ughn!

WASN'T PREPARED FOR--PSIONIC BLAST-- BUT THEN I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE *ALMERAC'S* RULER *HERE!*

I MUST RETREAT--AND REASSESS MY SITUATION!

WARP!

HE DISAPPEARS?

LOOKS THAT WAY, SWEETIE! AND HE SEEMED TO KNOW WHO YOU WERE TOO! WHAT GIVES?

THOUGH I OWE YOU NO EXPLAN-ATION--

ALMERAC IS WELL KNOWN TO THOSE WHO TRAVERSE THE SPACE WAYS.

WELL, IF HE SHOWS UP HERE AGAIN HE'S A *DEAD* MAN!

REALLY?

I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU *TRY,* SIR.

WARP ITEM 77.

YOU SEE, MY *DIMENSIONAL ARSENAL* IS *LIMITLESS.*

I CAN *ACCESS* THE BEST WEAPONS OF VIRTUALLY ANY PLANET IN THE *UNIVERSE.*

BUT NONE TO COMPARE WITH MAXIMA'S *MIGHT!*

UNTRUE. THIS SKELLOREAN HELMET INSULATES ME FROM YOUR PSIONIC POWERS!

MAYBE SO! BUT MY FORCE FIELD WILL PROTECT ME FROM YOU!

PERHAPS.

--AND PERHAPS NOT.

MY BLADE CAN CUT THROUGH ANY SUBSTANCE-- ANY FORM OF ENERGY.

Uhhh-- FEEDBACK's-- MAKING ME-- BLACK OUT--

I KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT YOU ALL TO COME PERFECTLY ARMED.

YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF WINNING.

YEAH? THEN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD WHAT A GREEN LANTERN'S RING CAN DO!

QUITE THE CONTRARY.

MY AWARENESS OF YOUR TECHNIQUE IS COMPLETE.

THAT'S WHY I ARRANGED YOUR CONFLICT WITH THAT RIDICULOUS ROYAL FLUSH GANG!

THOUGH I CERTAINLY DIDN'T NEED THEM TO TELL ME YOUR RING WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON MY YELLOW ARMOR!

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS AWARE OF THE RING'S SOLE DE-FICIENCY!

WELL, HOOP-DEE-DOO FOR YOU!

AREN'T YOU JUST A REGULAR WHIZ KID!

AH. BLUE BEETLE, I BELIEVE.

YOU'RE THE *WEAKEST* MEMBER OF THEM ALL, ARE YOU NOT?

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, PAL!

OH, THEN MY ENERGY STAFF *WON'T* HURT YOU...

UH-OH...

...MUCH.

SHEAKK

MAYBE YOU CAN HANDLE A *DWEEB* LIKE THE BUG, BUT--

SHUT UP, GARDNER.

SFAKK

UHKKK...

YOU WERE BORN TO *RULE* AND *CONQUER* ENTIRE GALAXIES, MAXIMA!

SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?

SLUMMING?

MY ONLY ANSWER IS-- *FORCE!*

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT FORCE, WOMAN.

I COMMAND FORCE!

ZAM!

Snagg!

AND NOW IT'S DONE.

EVEN WITH MAXIMA AT THEIR SIDE, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE PROVED *EASILY* VANQUISHED.

ALL THAT IS LEFT--

--IS TO GET WHAT I CAME FOR.

OH, YOU'LL GET *IT*, ALL RIGHT.

YOU'LL GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE.

WOW! ISN'T HE SIMPLY WONDERFUL?

WELL HE CERTAINLY GETS RIGHT TO THE *POINT!*

BWAM

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT IS YOU'VE COME FOR, BUT YOU ARE *NOT* GOING TO GET IT!

MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.

AMAZING HOW EVERY *CHEAP* THUG WITH FANCY TOOLS THINKS HE CAN WALTZ IN HERE AND *KNOCK US AROUND!*

I *RESENT* YOUR ACCUSATION, SIR!

I MAY BE MANY THINGS--

--BUT I *AM NOT* CHEAP!

OH. WELL, THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING, DOESN'T IT?

HE'S SO...SO... *BIG*...AND *STRONG!* I BET HE CAN DO *ANYTHING!*

YEAH. MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CHANGE OUR NAME TO JUSTICE LEAGUE *SUPERMAN!*

GLOAT WHILE YOU CAN, KRYPTONIAN.

WHO'S GLOATING? I'M JUST TAKING YOU APART AT THE SEAMS!

IS THAT *RIGHT?*

WARP.

SO LONG, SUPERMAN. FEEL FREE TO DROP IN ANY TIME!

SOMETHING PULLING ME--RIGHT OUT OF...EXISTENCE?

SUPERMAN!

GET HIM BEFORE HE CAN FIRE THE FIRST SHOT!

I ALWAYS FIRE THE FIRST SHOT. OR IN THIS CASE--

--AN ENERGY DAMPNING NET TO DEAL WITH YOU, FIRE.

WARD. ITEM 717.

THIS WILL PUT YOUR FIRE OUT, FAIR MAIDEN!

FLZZZT

AIEEE!

YOU INHUMAN MONSTER! SUPERMAN HAD BETTER STILL BE ALIVE!

INTERESTING. I EXPECTED YOU TO FIRST SHOW CONCERN FOR THAT FOOL GARDNER.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS. THOUGH YOUR EMOTIONS ARE A SURPRISE--

--YOUR TACTICS ARE NOT.

MY ARMOR'S THERMAL PODS CAN EASILY NEGATE YOUR POWER.

G--GET BACK! I WON'T LET YOU... BEAT US!

YES.

YES YOU WILL.

WHEN I AM HIRED TO ACQUIRE SOMETHING I *NEVER* FAIL.

NEVER!

SLAK

AND NOW, THE *GREATEST* SINGLE WEAPON EVER INVENTED IS MINE.

ONCE THE DOMINATORS HAVE THIS AS A MODEL--

--THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE AND *BETTER* ITS TECHNOLOGY!

STOP.

ANOTHER INTRUDER? AND ONE I DON'T KNOW?

I SEE. YOU'RE THE SILENT TYPE. A *MYSTERY MAN!*

WELL, YOU'RE NO JUSTICE LEAGUER. AND IF YOU'RE OUT TO GET GARDNER'S RING FOR YOUR OWN USE IT'S TOO LATE.

IT'S *MINE!* AND IT'S WORTH *MILLIONS!*

SO LONG--

--HUH? HE'S *GONE?*

I HAVE NO DATA ON THIS MAN-- NO *INFORMATION!* I MAY HAVE ACCESS TO ANY WEAPONS EVER DEVISED--

--BUT THAT DOES ME *LITTLE* GOOD IF I DON'T KNOW WHICH *ONES* TO USE!

THE RING. GIVE IT TO ME...

BACK ALREADY? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU MOVE FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER THROUGH DIMENSIONS AS I DO?

WHAT MANNER OF *MAN* ARE YOU ANYWAY? DO YOU ACT AS A FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE--

--OR FOE?

I AM BLOODWYND.

MY MAGIC ENABLES ME TO TAP INTO THE PLASMA ENERGIES OF THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.

FEEL THE BLAZING FURY OF THOSE WHOSE SOULS BURN IN HELL!

A *SORCERER!* THIS IS *NEW* TO ME! UNEXPECTED!

I WILL NOT TOLERATE THAT! AFTER ALL THE WORK I PUT INTO THIS OPERATION--

--I REFUSE TO BE SAND-BAGGED BY A CHEAP PARLOR MAGICIAN!

I HOPE YOU ENJOY SOLITUDE, BLOODWYND--

--BECAUSE I'M LEAVING!

EXCLUSIONARY LOCATION WARP. NOW!

KRAKKKLE

FZAMMM

GONE. ALL OF THEM-- GONE.

I DO NOT UNDERSSSTAND.

YOUR MASSSTER WASSS SUPPOSED TO RETURN HERE WITH THAT POWER RING!

WHERE ISSS HE? WHERE ISSS MY RING?

LIKE, I WAS KINDA *AFRAID* OF THIS, Y'KNOW.

HE'S INTO *STYLE*, Y'KNOW? I MEAN, RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY OFF STRUTTING HIS STUFF BIG TIME!

SSSTRUTTING? SSSTUFF?

HE'S LIKE A CAT, Y'KNOW? AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--THEY'RE *MICE* TO HIM!

--HE'S PROBABLY TAKEN THEM TO ONE OF HIS *DIMENSIONS*-- -

"--WHERE HE CAN *TOY* WITH THEM FOR A WHILE--

"--BEFORE HE *KILLS* THEM."

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING?

MONEY? POWER?

NO. IT IS THE CHALLENGE OF *ACQUIRING* THOSE TRAPPINGS OF SUCCESS.

DO YOU ENJOY *GAMES*, BLUE BEETLE? GAMES WHERE THE STAKES ARE HIGH?

THE *CHALLENGE*. THE *WIN*. THE *GAME*. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

GAMES OF *LIFE* AND *DEATH*?

THAT'S WHAT I'M OFFERING YOU, BLUE BEETLE.

THE *ULTIMATE* GAME.

WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE? WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH THE OTHERS?

THINK OF THIS PLACE AS AN *INFINITE VOID*. AS FOR YOUR FRIENDS--

--IN THIS REALM ONLY THOSE I ALLOW TO MOVE *WILL* MOVE.

YOU PULLED A BIG BONER THIS TIME, PAL! I *CAN* MOVE AND I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF YOU.

MISTAKES ARE QUITE FOREIGN TO ME, INSECT.

YOU CAN MOVE BECAUSE I *PERMIT* IT. RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, I WANT YOU TO--

--SIT DOWN!

Uhf--CAN'T GET UP!

NOW, IF YOU'LL CEASE YOUR CHILDISH *OUTBURSTS*, WE CAN GET BACK TO THE *GAME!*

AND MORE IMPORTANT, THE GAME'S *PRIZE.*

A GREEN LANTERN'S RING. ONE OF THE *RAREST* AND MOST COVETED ITEMS IN EXISTENCE.

RATHER *FITTING*, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

BIG DEAL. GUY GARDNER WITHOUT A RING IS ACTUALLY KIND OF *APPEALING.*

FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT'S YOURS. TAKE IT.

I THOUGHT YOUR SMALL, *INSIGNIFICANT* MIND MIGHT REACT THAT WAY.

PERHAPS YOU STILL DON'T REALIZE WHAT *ELSE* IS AT STAKE.

ISN'T THIS CHESS BOARD *INTERESTING?* THE MAN WHO SOLD IT TO ME SAID HE GOT IT FROM A RED-SKINNED, THREE-EYED ALIEN.

THIS GAME REPRESENTS THE *LIVES* OF YOUR *FRIENDS.*

PLACE A FIGURE ON A *DANGER* SQUARE, AND THE CORRESPONDING PERSON WILL LIKELY *DIE.*

PLACE THE FIGURE ON A *FREEDOM* SQUARE AND I WILL RETURN THE PERSON TO THE CAVE.

FORGET IT! THIS IS THE DUMBEST, THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN!

I'M NOT ABOUT TO PLAY ALONG WITH THIS!

I MEAN, YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE THE GAME RIGGED!

YOU REFUSE TO PLAY? WATCH.

POOR ICE. SHE REALLY DID DESERVE A CHANCE, BUT ALAS, I'VE PLACED HER ON A DANGER SQUARE.

WATCH AS SHE DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW--

--AND REAPPEARS IN A WORLD OF FLAME AND LAVA. ALL BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T GIVE HER A CHANCE.

A SHAME, REALLY. SURELY SHE CAN'T SURVIVE THAT.

THERE! I'VE TAKEN HER OFF THE BOARD! BRING HER BACK!

TOO LATE. SHE'S DEAD.

PLAY THE GAME, BEETLE--

--OR THE NEW JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA WILL BE FINISHED BEFORE IT'S BEGUN!

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE! (BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, RIGHT?)

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Dan Jurgens

finished art
Rick Burchett

letterer
Willie Schubert

colorist
Gene D'Angelo

editor
Brian Augustyn

PAWNS

LOOK AT ICE, BEETLE. LOOK AT HER.

SHE'S DEAD. A GONER. MELTED.

AND YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE!

DAN JURGENS
story/drawing

JACKSON GUICE
finisher

WILLIE SCHUBERT
letters

GENE D'ANGELO
colors

BRIAN AUGUSTYN
editor

WRONG-O, WEAPONS MASTER! YOU'RE THE OFFICIAL GAME SHOW HOST HERE--

--AND *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO SENT HER INTO THAT INFERNO.

ONLY BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T *PARTICI-PATE!*

PLAY.

PLAY *NOW* OR I'LL TRANSPORT BOOSTER GOLD STRAIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF A *NUCLEAR DETONATION!*

YOU'RE *SURE* THAT SOME OF THE SQUARES ON THIS BOARD REPRESENT FREEDOM FOR US ALL!

NATURALLY.

NATURALLY.

HE'S GOTTA BE LYING! HE CONCOCTED THIS WHOLE THING JUST TO TOY WITH US!

BUT ICE IS IN SO MUCH TROUBLE THAT I *HAVE* TO HELP HER SOMEHOW!

IF THESE SQUARES REALLY REPRESENT LOCATIONS THAT THE CORRESPOND-ING PERSON WILL BE SENT TO--

"--THEN THERE MIGHT JUST BE ONE *TRICK* TO SKEW THIS GAME.

SO. YOU CHOOSE TO SEND SUPERMAN?

INTERESTING. I WAS CERTAIN YOU'D SAVE HIM FOR LAST.

"TELL ME, BEETLE. WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'LL END UP?"

MY ICE SHIELD CAN'T POSSIBLY LAST MUCH LONGER!

AND IT'S SO INCREDIBLY HOT IN HERE THAT I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WORK UP ANOTHER ONE.

IS...THIS...HOW IT ENDS?

NEED A HAND?

WHO--?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE OR HOW WE'LL GET HOME, BUT I'M CERTAINLY GLAD--

--THAT I GOT HERE IN TIME TO HELP YOU OUT!

OH, ME TOO...SUPERMAN!

YOU--YOU SIMPERING *FOOL!* YOU PLACED SUPERMAN ON THE *SAME SQUARE* ICE OCCUPIED--

--AND *DELIBERATELY* SENT HIM THERE TO RESCUE HER!

WOW. IMAGINE THAT.

TRY THAT, OR ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN--

--AND I'LL DEVISE THE SLOWEST, MOST EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL DEATH THAT--

AHH, SHADDUP ALREADY.

YOU WANT ME TO PLAY, I'LL PLAY.

JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE, OKAY?

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS BOARD WAS JUST AN ORNAMENT--THAT WEAPONS MASTER WAS ACTUALLY DOING THE TRANSPORTING.

SEEING AS HOW SUPERMAN ENDED UP WITH ICE, THOUGH--

--MAKES ME THINK THAT THIS BOARD REALLY DOES WORK!

IF SO, MAMA KORD'S LITTLE BOY MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO PULL A RABBIT OUT OF HIS HAT YET!

HAVE TO *EXPERIMENT!* LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I PLACE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ON OPPOSITE CORNERS!

IF THIS WORKS-- *GREAT!* IF NOT--

--WELL, I'LL HAVE SOME APOLOGIZING TO DO TO MAXIMA AND BOOSTER!

TWO AT ONCE, BEETLE? YOU SURPRISE ME AGAIN.

HEY!

MAXIMA WILL EAT YOUR THROAT OUT, YOU--

NOW THAT'S SOMETHING NEW! MAXIMA MANAGED TO GET A FEW WORDS OUT BEFORE SHE FADED OUT.

QUESTION IS WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT BIT OF--

INFORMATION?! WHO ARE YOU TO BURST IN HERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION?

BLOODWYND.

YOUR JUSTICE LEAGUE WAS CAPTURED IN ITS SECRET CAVE AND SUBSEQUENTLY REMOVED FROM THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

LOOK, DEATHWIND, OR BLOODSKY, OR WHOEVER YOU ARE--

--HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE ON THE LEVEL?

YEAH! AND HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND THE CAVE? AND HOW DID YOU KNOW TO COME HERE?

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT US, STRANGER. CARE TO EXPLAIN?

NO. I AM HERE TO DISCUSS THE LEAGUE'S RESCUE. NOTHING MORE.

I USED MY MAGICS TO TELEPATHICALLY EXAMINE ONE OF WEAPONS MASTER'S GUNS.

I SAW A PSYCHIC IMAGE OF A YACHT CALLED KIKI'S DREAM. YOUR COMPUTERS CAN HELP LOCATE IT, CORRECT?

PSYCHIC IMAGE. YIPPEE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KNOW THAT, BUT THESE BABIES CAN DO THE JOB ALL RIGHT.

OKAY, OKAY! SPEAK YOUR PIECE, DOCTOR X!

I'LL HELP YOU FOR NOW BUT CROSS US, AND I PROMISE YOU--

"--IT'S GONNA GET REAL HOT AROUND HERE!"

HA... HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHERE WE ARE, SUPERMAN?

NO.

BUT I'VE SCANNED THIS WHOLE PLANET FROM TOP TO BOTTOM WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION--

--AND IT'S THE SAME ALL OVER. ONE BIG *VOLCANO!*

AND... I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF IT! THE HEAT... THE AIR...

I KNOW IT'S BAD. THE AMOUNT OF SULFUR IN THE ATMOSPHERE MUST BE INCREDIBLE!

PROBABLY A PLANET THAT'S DYING EVEN AS--

KRAKK

SUPERMAN!

GOTCHA!

LOOKS LIKE ICE IS REALLY IN A BAD WAY! I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE--

--BUT WHERE DO I GO? I HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO *WHERE* WE ARE!

ICE?

ICE?

SO HOT... SO WEAKK...

DON'T YOU GIVE UP ON ME!

YOU CAN FIGHT THIS! USE YOUR POWERS!

I'LL WORK ON GETTING US OUT OF HERE BUT YOU HAVE TO HELP YOURSELF!

C'MON, ICE! YOU CAN DO IT!

ALL I CAN... GENERATE...ARE A FEW... ICE PEBBLES...

GOOD GIRL! IT'S A START!

I'M...CURIOUS. ARE YOU...UMM... MARRIED, SUPERMAN?

Ahh... NO.

WHY NOT?

LET'S JUST SAY...THAT IT'S A HOT TOPIC.

HA HA HAA! SUPERMAN?

YES?

WOULD YOU...PLEASE CALL ME TORA. IT'S MY REAL NAME.

SURE... TORA.

PATHETIC, MORONIC HUMANS!

HOW *DARE* THEY SHUFFLE ME FROM ONE SPOT TO ANOTHER WITH SUCH DISREGARD.

MAXIMA WAS BORN TO RULE AND CONQUER! THESE... *PEOPLE* ARE HARDLY EVEN TOLERABLE!

IF SUPERMAN IS TO RETURN TO ALMERAC AS MY MATE IT MUST HAPPEN SOON--

--FOR I CAN NO LONGER BE SURROUNDED BY *FOOLS!*

WAIT! A NOISE OVER--

YES! FINALLY, A CHALLENGE WORTHY OF MAXIMA'S ATTENTION!

ARRRJKK!

HANG ON, BABE!

IF THAT CUTE TUSH OF YOURS NEEDS A RESCUE--

--THEN BOOSTER GOLD, IDOL OF MILLIONS, IS JUST THE MAN TO DO IT.

AND LATER, WHEN YOU DECIDE TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE--

--THIS PLACE IS GONNA GET EVEN *HOTTER!*

HEY! WHAT GIVES, MAXIMA!?

AWAY FROM ME, WORM!

I REQUIRE NO MAN'S PROTECTION!

AND IF YOUR INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE MIND IS UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THAT--

--THEN A DEMONSTRATION IS IN ORDER!

KAKAK

AS YOU CAN SEE, NOTHING MAY HARM ME *EVER.*

I GUESS YOU AND THE WEAPONS MASTER WERE JUST DANCING BACK IN THE CAVE!

HEY, YOU MUST'VE WORKED UP A SWEAT! HOW 'BOUT A BACK RUB?

I CAN TEACH YOU SOME 25th CENTURY TECHNIQUES THAT WILL--

--HEY!

HEY, *MAXIMA!* WAIT! WHERE YOU HEADED?

WOW! WITH YOU AROUND--

--WHO NEEDS ROTO-ROOTER?

Y'KNOW, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER--

--I'D SAY YOU WERE TRYING TO *DITCH* ME!

THIS IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE! I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN ONE *AGES* AGO!

THE *GREEN LANTERN* RING!

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

CUTE, MISTER. REAL CUTE. BUT YOU SURE DIDN'T GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO GET THAT RING JUST TO MAKE A LIGHT SHOW.

WHAT'S YOUR *ANGLE* HERE?

MONEY, BEETLE. LOTS AND LOTS OF IT!

UNDERSTAND THAT I AM THE *PREMIER* ARMS DEALER IN THE UNIVERSE. I HAVE BOUGHT AND SOLD WEAPONRY OF EVERY *TYPE* IMAGINABLE--

--TO ALMOST EVERY *RACE* IMAGINABLE.

IN THIS CASE IT'S THE DOMINATORS.

DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT *EARTH*? THOSE GUYS ALREADY TRIED TO INVADE US ONCE!

GIVE THE DOMINATORS A POWER RING AND *NOTHING* WILL STOP 'EM!

SO? THE STRONG *CONQUER* THE WEAK. IT'S A MATTER OF NATURE, NOT MORALS.

AND IF THE DOMINION SHOULD ATTACK--

--THEN I'LL BE GLAD TO SELL *EARTH* WEAPONS TO DEFEND ITSELF WITH!

OH, WELL, THAT MAKES IT ALL *BETTER*, DOESN'T IT?

YOU HAVE TWO MORE PIECES, BEETLE. *PLAY.*

HE'S RIGHT, I DO HAVE TO PLAY. I HAVE TO MAKE A PLAY THAT WILL STOP HIM IN HIS TRACKS.

IF I CAN *STALL*-- AND IF GUY IS SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE HIS MOVE--

--AND THAT IS ONE BIG "IF"--

--THEN THIS COULD BE THE TICKET!

NICE MOVE, BUG!

HEY, PAL--

"--GIMME MY RING!"

HOW IS THIS *POSSIBLE?*

"EASY! I SAW THAT YOUR TRANSPORT VICTIMS HAD A BRIEF SECOND OF CONSCIOUS FREEDOM BEFORE THEY DISAPPEARED!

"I FIGURED GUY MIGHT JUST HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH HIS *LINK* WITH HIS RING--

"--AND GET IT BACK!"

BWA-HA-HA HAAA!

KISS YOUR WEAPONS GOOD-BYE, SUCKER!

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE WHEN YOU'RE SLICED 'N' DICED INTO FIFTEEN PIECES!

ANOTHER CONFRONTATION?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW EASILY I DISPATCHED YOU BEFORE?

REMEMBER THAT I AM ABLE TO STEP OUT OF ANY PLANE OF REALITY I WISH.

NOTHING CAN HARM ME.

CIAO, BOYS.

GONE! THE SLIMY BUGGER GOT AWAY!

AT LEAST WE'RE FINALLY ON THE OFFENSIVE! WHEN I REALIZED YOU'D HAVE TIME TO ACT BEFORE DISAPPEARING--

--I KNEW YOU'D KNOW WHAT TO DO!

YEAH, BUT YOU'D EXPECT A GENIUS MOVE LIKE THAT FROM THE *ONE TRUE* GREEN LANTERN, RIGHT?

YOU, GARDNER--

--ARE BARELY EVEN A TRUE *HUMAN BEING!*

SPEEOWW

LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'!

YOU HAVE COST ME *MUCH* THIS DAY, CRETINS, AND I WON'T FORGET IT!

I'LL HAVE THAT BLOODY RING YET--AND NEXT TIME I'LL *KILL* YOU WHILE DOING IT!

GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT--

ENOUGH, GARDNER! WE HAVE OTHER *PROBLEMS!*

NOTHIN'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN CRAMMIN' THAT CREEP'S HEAD DOWN HIS--*HEY!*

LOOKIT WHAT BIG BLUE THERE IS UP TO!

HE'S MAKIN' TIME WITH *GUY GARDNER'S* WOMAN!

DEATH! PAIN! KILL! DISMEMBERMENT! DISEMBOWEL-MENT!

GIVE IT A REST, GARDNER! LIKE I SAID--

--WE HAVE MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT!

IT'S TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON FINDING THE OTHERS AND GETTING BACK TO EARTH--

--AND YOUR RING IS DEFINITELY OUR TICKET HOME!

HOW YOU FIGURE, BUG? MY RING AIN'T EXACTLY A BLOODHOUND, YOU KNOW!

PAY ATTENTION, EINSTEIN. NOW, THIS BOARD IS SOME KIND OF TRANSPORT TRIGGER, RIGHT?

IF IT'S LEFT ANY KIND OF RESIDUAL ENERGY, YOUR RING MIGHT BE ABLE TO ANALYZE IT AND GIVE US A CLUE!

GOOD THINKIN', BUG! BUT I CAN *TOP* THAT!

I CAN COMMAND THE RING TO BREAK DOWN THE RESIDUAL ENERGY--

--AND TURN IT INTO A TRAIL A *BLIND* MAN COULD FOLLOW.

WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT YOUR RING NOT BEING A BLOODHOUND?

WELL, LET'S HEAD OUT! IF WE DON'T CATCH UP WITH SUPERMAN AND ICE SOON, THERE'S NO TELLING *WHAT* HE'LL DO TO HER!

I'M GONNA *SQUASH* YOU SOMEDAY, BUG! AND I MEAN *GOOD!*

YOU, WEAPONSSS MASSSTER--

--ARE A SSSTUPID, EGOTISSSTICAL FOOL!

WHEN THE DOMINION HEARSSS HOW YOU BUNGLED ACQUIRING GARDNER'SSS RING THEY'LL--

THEY'LL DO NOTHING! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

I'M THE WEAPONS MASTER, DAMNIT!

AND THERE'S NO WAY I WILL LET THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT SULLY THE REPUTATION I'VE SPENT YEARS BUILDING!

WARP, ITEM 6!

HERE. DOMINATE THIS.

ZRRRKK

OOO, LIKE MAXIMUM GROSS-OUT! I AM NOT CLEANING THAT MESS UP!

JUST SEND WORD TO THE DOMINION--

--THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR MET WITH A MOST UN-FORTUNATE--

SAY! DO YOU HEAR--

--SOMETHING?

WHERE ARE THEY?

WOW! LIKE, SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

RELEASE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. NOW.

NEVER! I DON'T ANSWER TO--UGH!

BA SHH

SPIRITS, GRANT ME STRENGTH THAT I MIGHT TURN THIS CRAFT--

--AND END THIS MATCH ON A VICTORIOUS NOTE!

"HEY, CHECK IT OUT!"

WHOEVER THAT GUY IS, HE'S KICKING WEAPONS MASTER'S BUTT!

MUST YOU BE SO CRASS, BOOSTER?

MY ONLY CONCERN IS LEAVING THIS DESOLATE PLACE!

WE'RE JUST LUCKY GARDNER MANAGED TO GET US ALL TOGETHER.

YEAH, SPACE BABE! GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!

HEY, GUY! GET US OUTTA HERE AND I'LL GIVE YOU MORE CREDIT THAN UNCLE SAM HAS DEBT!

YOU'RE ALL MISSING THE OBVIOUS. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT IF WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE--

"--IT WILL BE DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR MYSTERIOUS ALLY."

KIKI! GET OVER HERE!

LIKE, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT *ME* TO DO, HONEY?

JUST GRAB MY HAND!

YOU MAY BE FAST, BUT YOU'LL NEVER--

NEVER SAY NEVER, MISTER!

YOU MAY HAVE RUINED THIS ENTIRE OPERATION BUT I'LL BE *BACK!* AND WHEN I AM--

"--YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU EVER CROSSED WEAPONS MASTER!"

GONE! I'VE *FAILED!*

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, BOZO!

GUY GARDNER.

WOW, AIN'T *YOU* THE OBSERVANT ONE! SEEIN' AS HOW YOU'RE BY THE MASTER'S CONTROL BOARD THERE--

--YOU'RE ELECTED TO GET US OUTTA HERE!

I CANNOT FATHOM THE OPERATION OF THIS BOARD.

DESPITE THAT, THERE MAY BE A WAY.

STAND FAST, JUSTICE LEAGUE. YOU WILL SOON BE FREE.

SO SWEARS BLOODWYND.

WHAT THE DEVIL TOOK YOU SO LONG, BLOODWYND?

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GET US OUT OF THAT DIMENSION SOON--

--AND IT TOOK YOU HOURS!

MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL YOU BLOODSTOP!

GUY GARDNER. EVER THE PLEASANT PARAGON OF DECORUM.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO EVEN *BE* OUT, GARDNER!

BLOODWYND ACTUALLY BROKE DOWN SOME OF THE WEAPONS MASTER'S COMPUTER AND BROUGHT IT HERE--

--SO WE COULD SWIPE THE SOFTWARE AND PROGRAM IT INTO THE JLA TELEPORTER! IF NOT FOR THAT...

IT WORKED, OBERON. THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS.

I'M TELLING YOU THIS IS *GREAT!*

NOT ONLY ARE WE BACK TOGETHER ON THE HEELS OF A SUCCESSFUL MISSION--

--BUT WE NOW HAVE *TWO* NEW MEMBERS JOINING US ON THIS BANNER DAY!

NEW MEMBERS?

WHO?

WHY, BLOODWYND AND MAXIMA, OF COURSE! THEY'RE *CERTAIN* TO WIDEN THE GROUP'S APPEAL!

I AM HONORED TO JOIN YOUR LEAGUE.

NO.

MAXIMA DOES NOT JOIN, SHE *LEADS!*

I WILL STAY ONLY IF IT *PLEASES* ME TO DO SO.

HOOOKAY. AND ON TOP OF THIS GOOD NEWS, I'VE ARRANGED A DEAL WITH THE U.N. THAT'S TOO SWEET TO *BELIEVE!*

THEY'RE PROVIDING THE FUNDS FOR A BRAND-NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FOR US THAT--

HOLD ON, LORD!

I TOLD YOU BEFORE. *WE* MAKE OUR DECISIONS. *WE* DECIDE WHERE TO GO AND *WHO* TO INVITE!

NOT *YOU!*

YOU DON'T *REALLY* WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT MUSTY OLD CAVE?

MAX IS RIGHT! THAT COLD, DINGY CAVE IS JUST TOO *YUCKY* FOR ME!

HUSH, BEA! LISTEN TO SUPERMAN! HE KNOWS BEST!

SAYS WHO?

SAYS *ME*, THAT'S WHO!

WHO ARE YOU, TORA? GROUP *DEN MOTHER?*

Hmm, SUPERMAN? YOU FORGOT TO PICK UP YOUR JLA SIGNAL DEVICE AGAIN.

I KNOW, OBERON.

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

Humph. NICE DIGS.

NICE OF MAX TO PUT US UP HERE FOR A WHILE.

GUESS IT'LL DO TILL OUR NEW HQ IS READY.

SPEAKIN' OF READY...

NOK NOK

1706

HERE GOES NUTHIN'.

NO ANSWER. MAYBE SHE'S BLABBIN' AWAY IN FIRE'S ROOM.

I'LL JUST SLIP IN AND LEAVE THESE GUY GARDNER SPECIALS ON HER BUREAU...

OOOPS. GUESS SHE'S IN THE SHOWER.

THE HILL'S ARE ALIIIIIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUUUUSIC...

OUCH.

AIN'T THAT CUTE? LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT A PICTURE OF HER NUMBER ONE MAN AT HER BEDSIDE!

FLOOP

DAILY

SUPERMAN JOINS JLA

YOU PEOPLE MAY THINK THESE ROBOBARS ARE GREAT. BUT IN THE 25th CENTURY WHERE I COME FROM--

--HOTEL ROOMS HAVE FOOD SYNTHESIZERS THAT WOULD *BLOW* YOUR DRAWERS OFF!

BOOSTER, HOW IN THE WORLD CAN YOU THINK OF FOOD AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

EASY. I'M *STARVED!* I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE WASN'T A BIG BELLY BURGER IN THAT OTHER DIMENSION, BUT--

I SHOULD'VE *KNOWN* YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE WORRIED!

WORRIED ABOUT WHAT?

BLOODWYND! HE SURE SEEMS TO KNOW AN AWFUL *LOT* ABOUT US FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST JOINED!

I MEAN, HOW DO WE EVEN KNOW HE'S A *GOOD GUY?*

SINCE WHEN WAS THAT A CRITERION FOR JOINING THIS GROUP?

GUY GARDNER HASN'T EXACTLY WON ANY GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS, YOU KNOW.

I'M TELLING YOU, BLOODWYND HAS SOME *INSIDE* INFORMATION ON US! IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S READ THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE HANDBOOK!*

THERE'S *MORE* TO BLOODWYND THAN MEETS THE EYE--

"--AND WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"

HOW IGNORANT CAN THIS PLANET BE?

ROYALTY OF MAXIMA'S CALIBER SHOULD HAVE ATTENDANTS TO HELP HER BATHE.

WHY DID THE ONE NAMED DESK CLERK LAUGH SO HARD UPON HEARING THE REQUEST?

IN TRUTH, I LONG FOR MY HOME WORLD OF ALMERAC.

YET, IF SUPERMAN IS TO BE MINE, IT IS HERE I MUST STAY.

STILL, SINCE BRAINIAC'S CONQUEST OF ALMERAC LAID WASTE TO IT-- *

*IN SUPERMAN #65 -YOUR PAL, BRIAN

"--I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER HOW IT FARES."

SIR.

SPEAK.

WE HAVE GATHERED THE REPRESENTATIVES AND THEY HAVE VOTED.

THE RESULT?

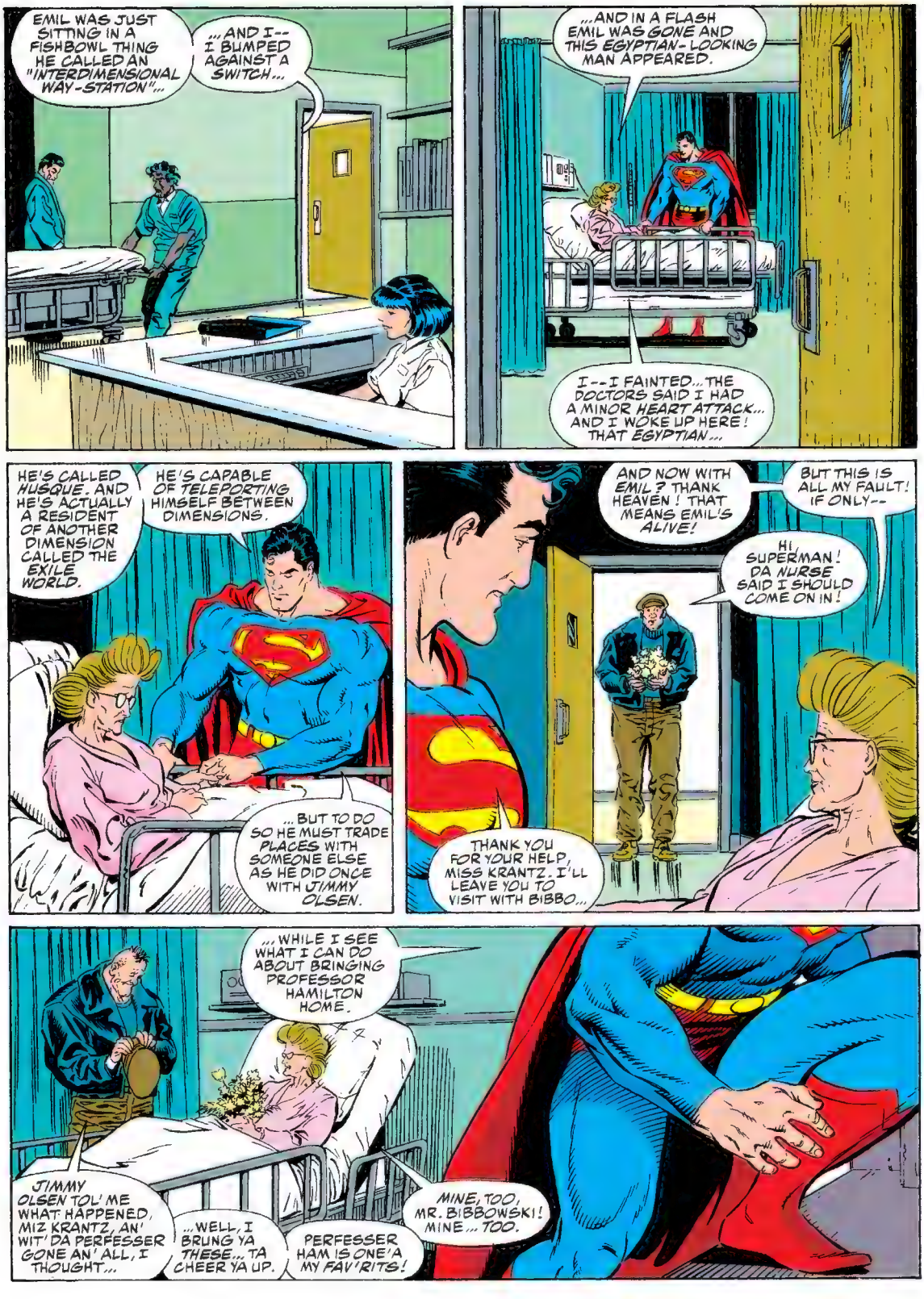
THEY HAVE SUCCUMBED AND NAMED YOU THE LEGAL LORD OF ALMERAC!

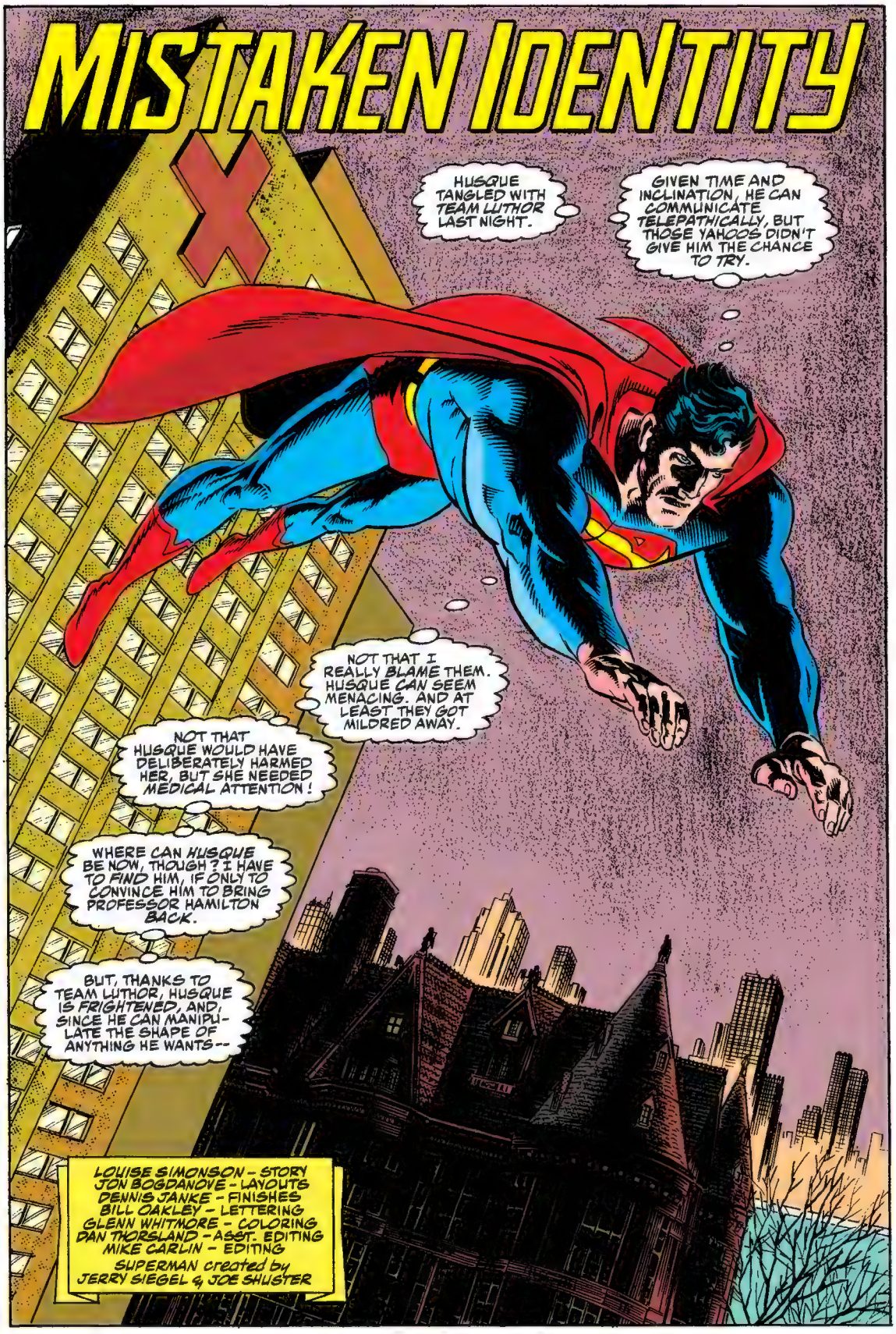
AT LAST! AT LAST!

IT HAS TRULY BEEN A LOOONG TIME--

--BUT I AM FINALLY BACK!

TO BE CONTINED!


EMIL WAS JUST SITTING IN A FISHBOWL THING HE CALLED AN "INTERDIMENSIONAL WAY-STATION"...
...AND I-- I BUMPED AGAINST A SWITCH...
...AND IN A FLASH EMIL WAS GONE AND THIS EGYPTIAN-LOOKING MAN APPEARED.
I--I FAINTED... THE DOCTORS SAID I HAD A MINOR HEART ATTACK... AND I WOKE UP HERE! THAT EGYPTIAN...
HE'S CALLED HUSQUE. AND HE'S ACTUALLY A RESIDENT OF ANOTHER DIMENSION CALLED THE EXILE WORLD.
HE'S CAPABLE OF TELEPORTING HIMSELF BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.
...BUT TO DO SO HE MUST TRADE PLACES WITH SOMEONE ELSE AS HE DID ONCE WITH JIMMY OLSEN.
AND NOW WITH EMIL? THANK HEAVEN! THAT MEANS EMIL'S ALIVE!
BUT THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! IF ONLY--
HI, SUPERMAN! DA NURSE SAID I SHOULD COME ON IN!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, MISS KRANTZ. I'LL LEAVE YOU TO VISIT WITH BIBBO...
...WHILE I SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT BRINGING PROFESSOR HAMILTON HOME.
JIMMY OLSEN TOL' ME WHAT HAPPENED, MIZ KRANTZ, AN' WIT' DA PERFESSER GONE AN' ALL, I THOUGHT...
...WELL, I BRUNG YA THESE... TA CHEER YA UP.
PERFESSER HAM IS ONE'A MY FAV'RITS!
MINE, TOO, MR. BIBBOWSKI! MINE... TOO.

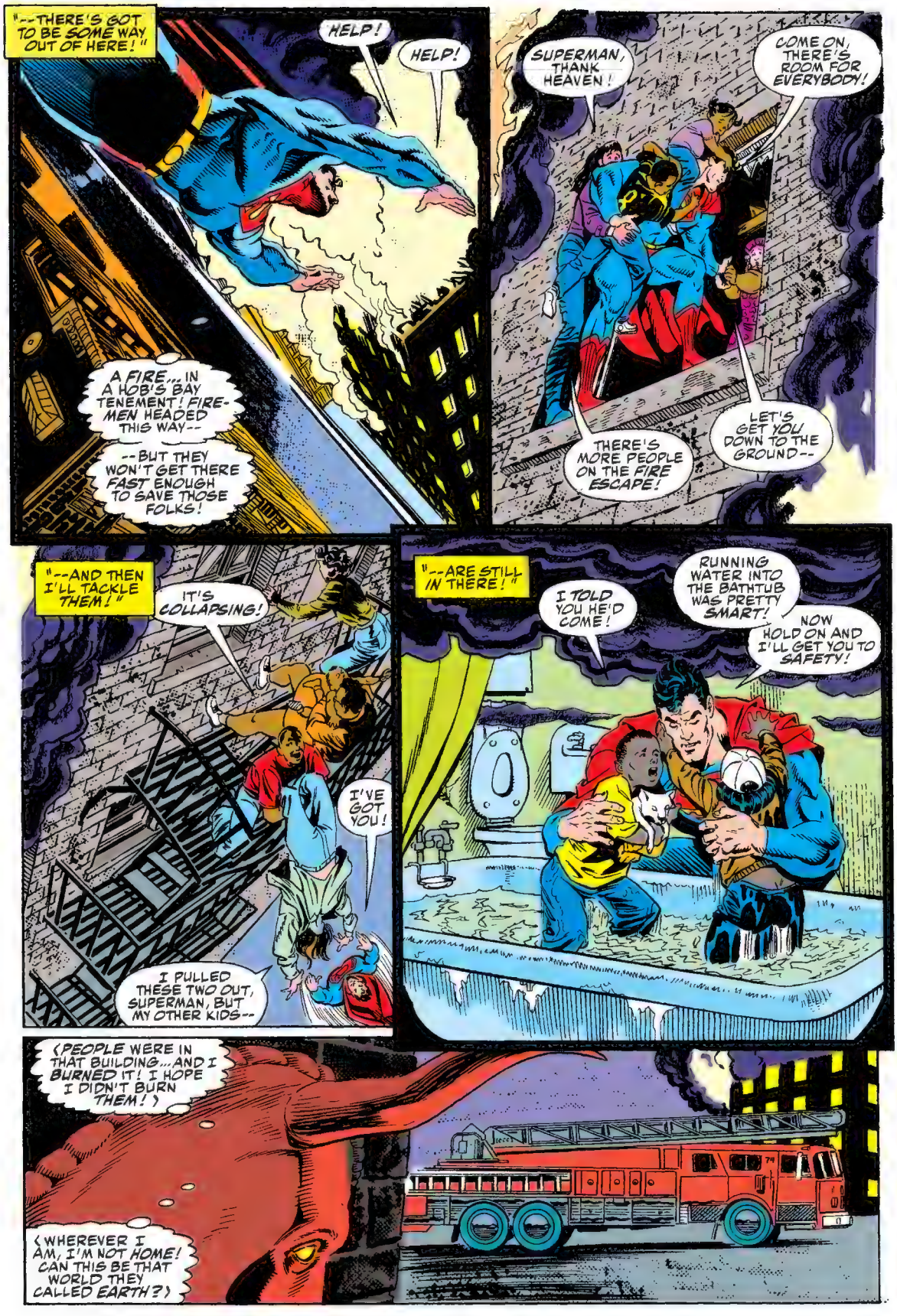

MISTAKEN IDENTITY
HUSQUE TANGLED WITH TEAM LUTHOR LAST NIGHT.
GIVEN TIME AND INCLINATION, HE CAN COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY, BUT THOSE YAHOOS DIDN'T GIVE HIM THE CHANCE TO TRY.
NOT THAT I REALLY BLAME THEM. HUSQUE CAN SEEM MENACING. AND AT LEAST THEY GOT MILDRED AWAY.
NOT THAT HUSQUE WOULD HAVE DELIBERATELY HARMED HER, BUT SHE NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION!
WHERE CAN HUSQUE BE NOW, THOUGH? I HAVE TO FIND HIM, IF ONLY TO CONVINCE HIM TO BRING PROFESSOR HAMILTON BACK.
BUT, THANKS TO TEAM LUTHOR, HUSQUE IS FRIGHTENED, AND, SINCE HE CAN MANIPULATE THE SHAPE OF ANYTHING HE WANTS--
LOUISE SIMONSON - STORY
JON BOGDANOVE - LAYOUTS
DENNIS JANKE - FINISHES
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERING
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORING
DAN THORSLAND - ASST. EDITING
MIKE CARLIN - EDITING
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

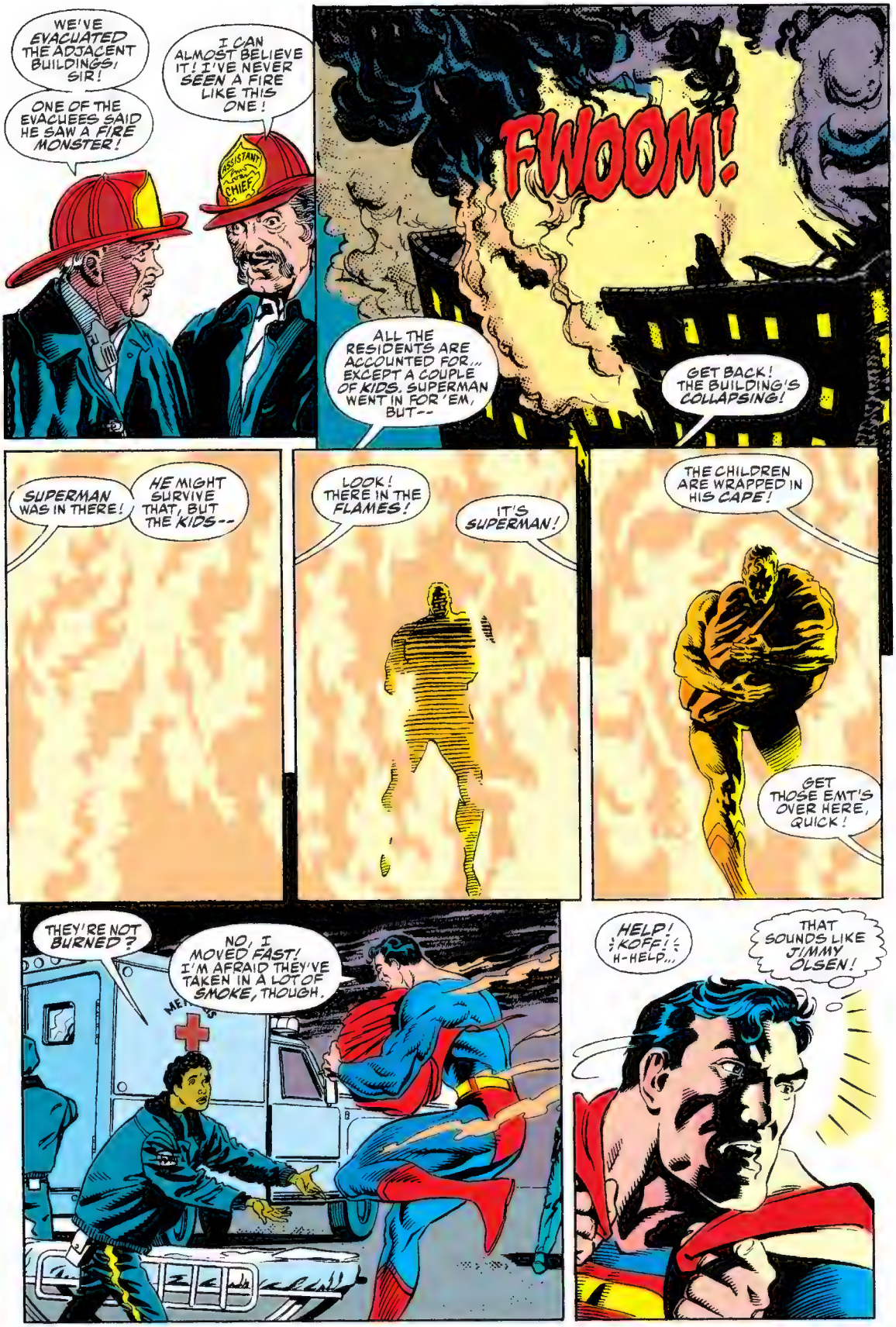
"--HE COULD BE ANYWHERE."
"...SO, FREDDY, THE ACID EATS THROUGH THE MILK CARTON AND WHEN IT HITS THE CHEMICALS IN THE CUP--WHOOSH!"
DAT'S AWESOME, ARNIE!
MILK
HUSQUE!
GET BACK IN THE SHADOWS!
HUSQUE, WHERE ARE YOU?
'S JUST SOME JERK CALLIN' 'IS DOG.
HUSQUE!
HUSQUE--YOW!
HUSQUE! WHERE WERE YOU? ME AN' SUPERMAN WERE PRETTY WORRIED!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ON EARTH?
(CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE... WE CAN CONVERSE...)
(THIS WAS... NOT MY DOING. ON EXILE WORLD, I HEARD PROFESSOR HAMILTON CALL...)
(...THEN SUDDENLY I WAS HERE!)
(THE TIME I SWITCHED PLACES WITH YOU, JIMMY OLSEN, WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE.)
(I WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN ON YOUR EARTH, FOR I NOW BELIEVE THAT MY SISTER MIGHT BE HERE ALSO.)
(BUT PROFESSOR HAMILTON HAS TAKEN MY PLACE ON EXILE WORLD AND IT IS NOT FAIR TO LEAVE HIM THERE...)
(...IN THE MIDDLE OF A REVOLUTION.)

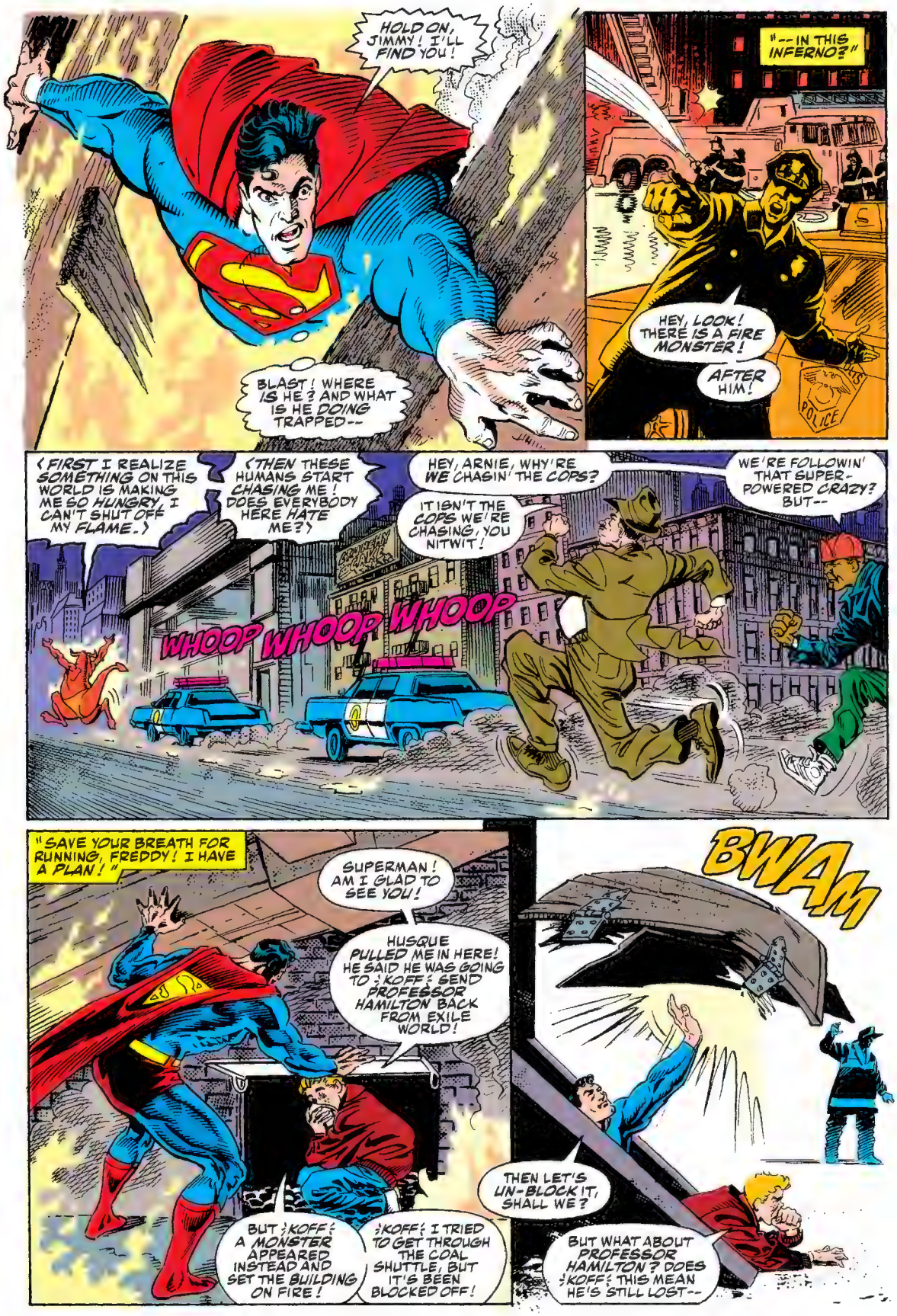
〈SO I AM GOING TO TELEPORT BACK TO EXILE WORLD AND BRING PROFESSOR HAMILTON FORWARD.〉
〈PLEASE ASSURE SUPERMAN THAT I AM STRIVING TO PUT RIGHT THIS WRONG.〉
"〈THERE! I HAVE FOUND PROFESSOR HAMILTON AND, AS I FEARED, SIMYAN AND MOKKARI'S ENFORCERS ARE ATTACKING THEM!〉"
RUN!
SKRAKK
KRAKOW
"〈IF ONLY HAMILTON WOULD HOLD STILL! IT IS HARD TO FOCUS ON THE SPACE HE OCCUPIES WHEN IT KEEPS CHANGING!〉"
〈WE'VE OUTRUN THEM... AT LEAST FOR A WHILE! I'M TIRED...〉
〈...AND HUNGRY!〉
〈LOOK--THE BURN SIGN THAT TELLS ME WHAT IS TO BE DISPOSED OF.〉
FLASHPOINT--NO! DARN, I'VE GOT TO LEARN YOUR LANGUAGE HERE! THIS IS NO TIME TO EAT...!
〈WHAT'S HE YELLIN' ABOUT? I WUZ WOUNDED AND WEAK... I NEED ENERGY!〉
〈TELL HIM TO CHILL OUT! THIS IS MY JOB--AND WHEN I'M NOT FIGHTING A REVOLUTION--〉
〈--IT'S ONE I ENJOY! NOT EVERYONE'S LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE A LIVING INCINERATOR!〉
"〈FINALLY! HAMILTON HAS STOPPED FOR A MOMENT.〉"

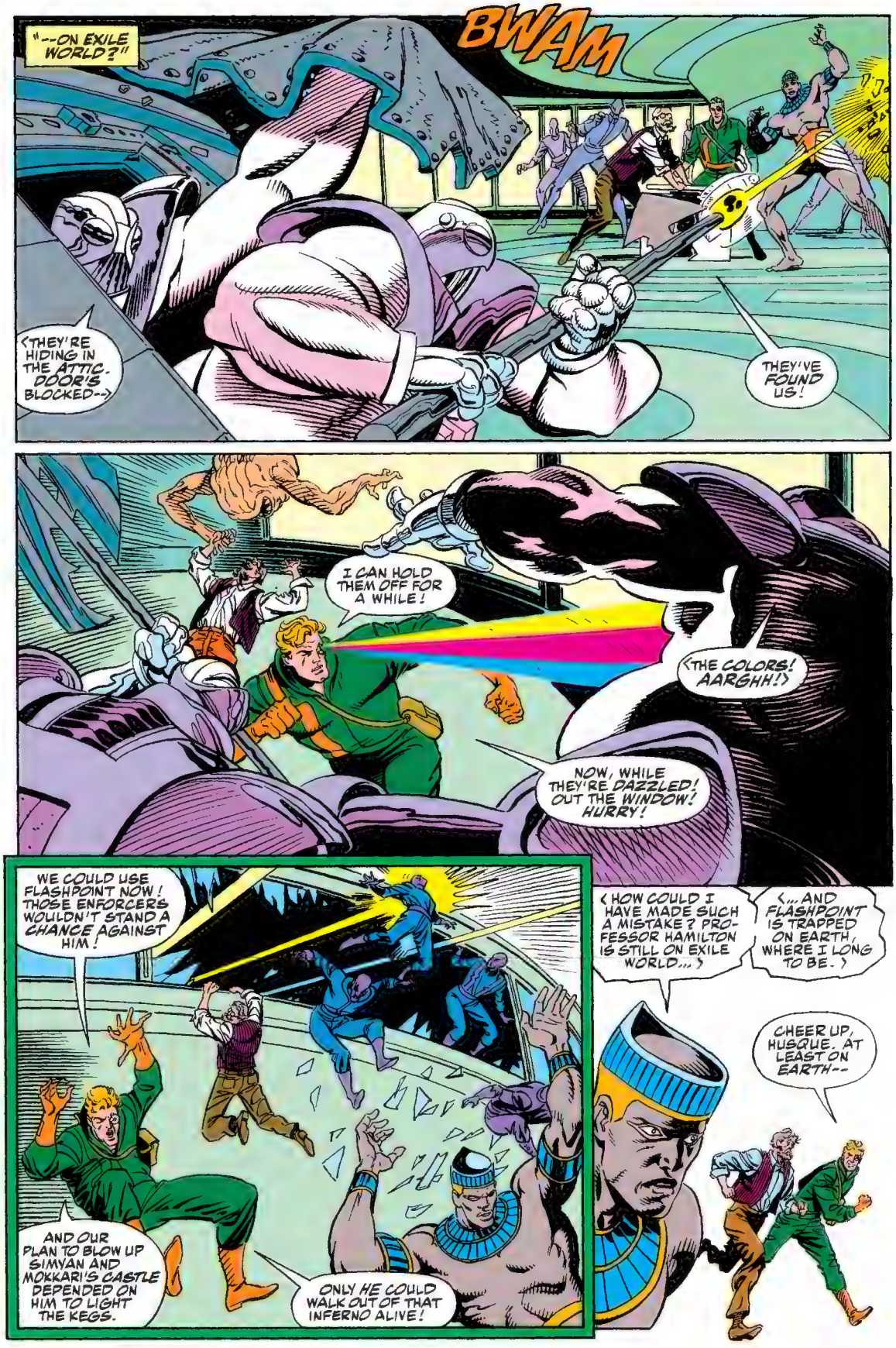
〈SOMETIMES THIS DIET IS A BIT MUCH... EVEN FOR ME! URP!〉
HOW CAN HE EVEN THINK OF EATING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
"〈I THINK I HAVE HIM!〉"
BLADOW SKROW
〈THEY'VE FOUND US! RUN!〉
SKRAK
"〈NOW!〉"
〈HAMILTON! MOVE!〉
SHRANG
"〈GOOD-BYE, JIMMY OLSEN. SAY HELLO TO PROFESSOR HAMILTON FOR ME--!〉"
FWOOSH!
〈HAMILTON?! BUT--〉
HUSQUE--WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND--

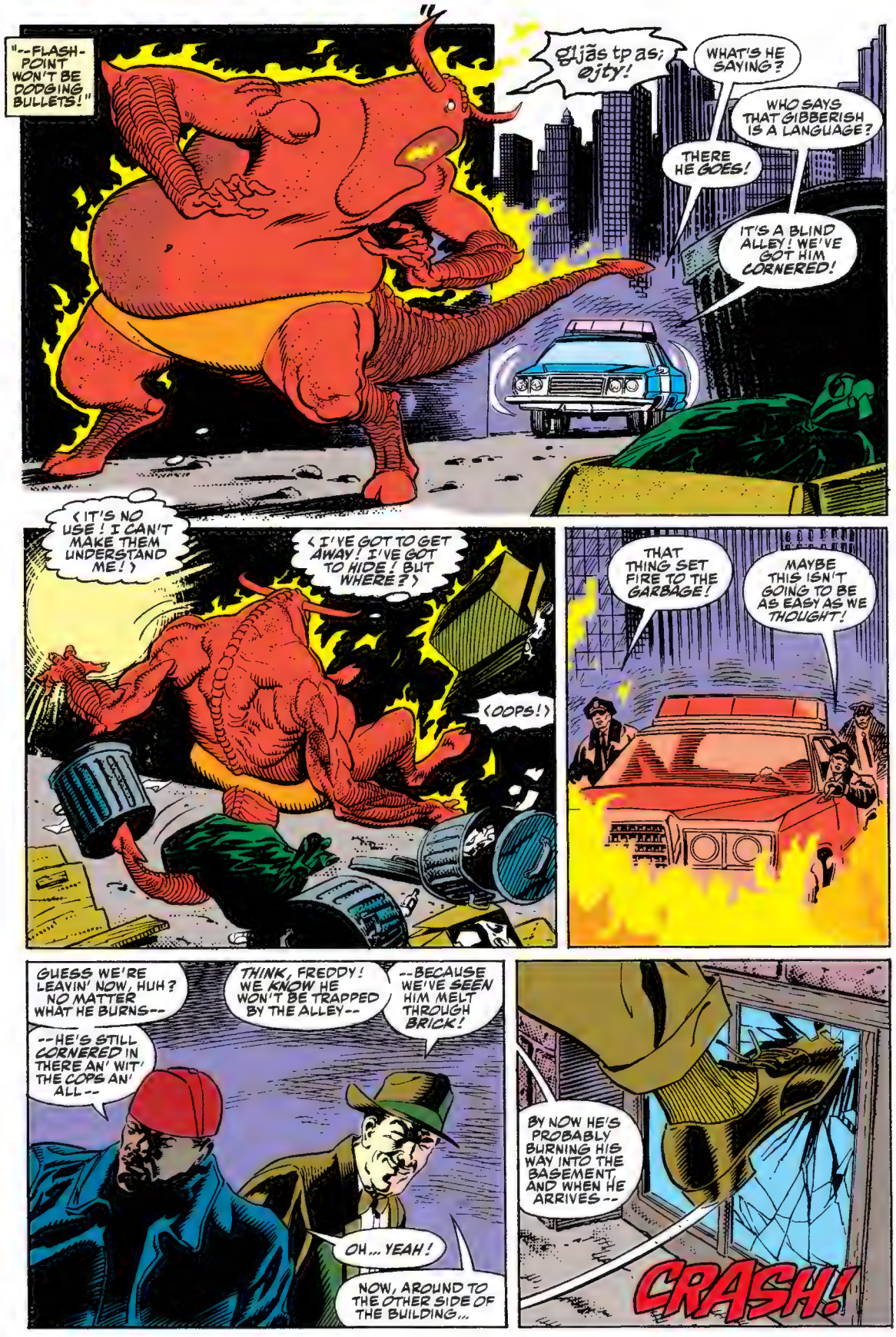
"--WHERE'S FLASHPOINT?"
YAAAAAAAAAHHH!
Rjɕüjd÷L Nm̃!
YOU AREN'T HAMILTON!
〈WHERE AM I? WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TA ME?〉
〈WHY CAN'T I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S SAYING?〉
〈WHY CAN'T I STOP BURNING?〉
GOOD HEAVENS!
IT'S A FLAMIN' MAN... OR DEVIL... OR SOMETHIN'!
HEY, LOOK--THE BUILDIN' WE WUZ SUPPOSED TA BURN IS BURNIN' DOWN A'READY!
WHILE WE ARE FREE OF ALL--
"--SUSPICION!"
THAT... THING BURNED THROUGH THE WALL! SET FIRE TO ALL THIS DEBRIS!
HUSQUE PULLED ME IN HERE... DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM... IN A BASEMENT, MAYBE.
KEEP CALM! DON'T PANIC! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AROUND... FIND THE EXIT--

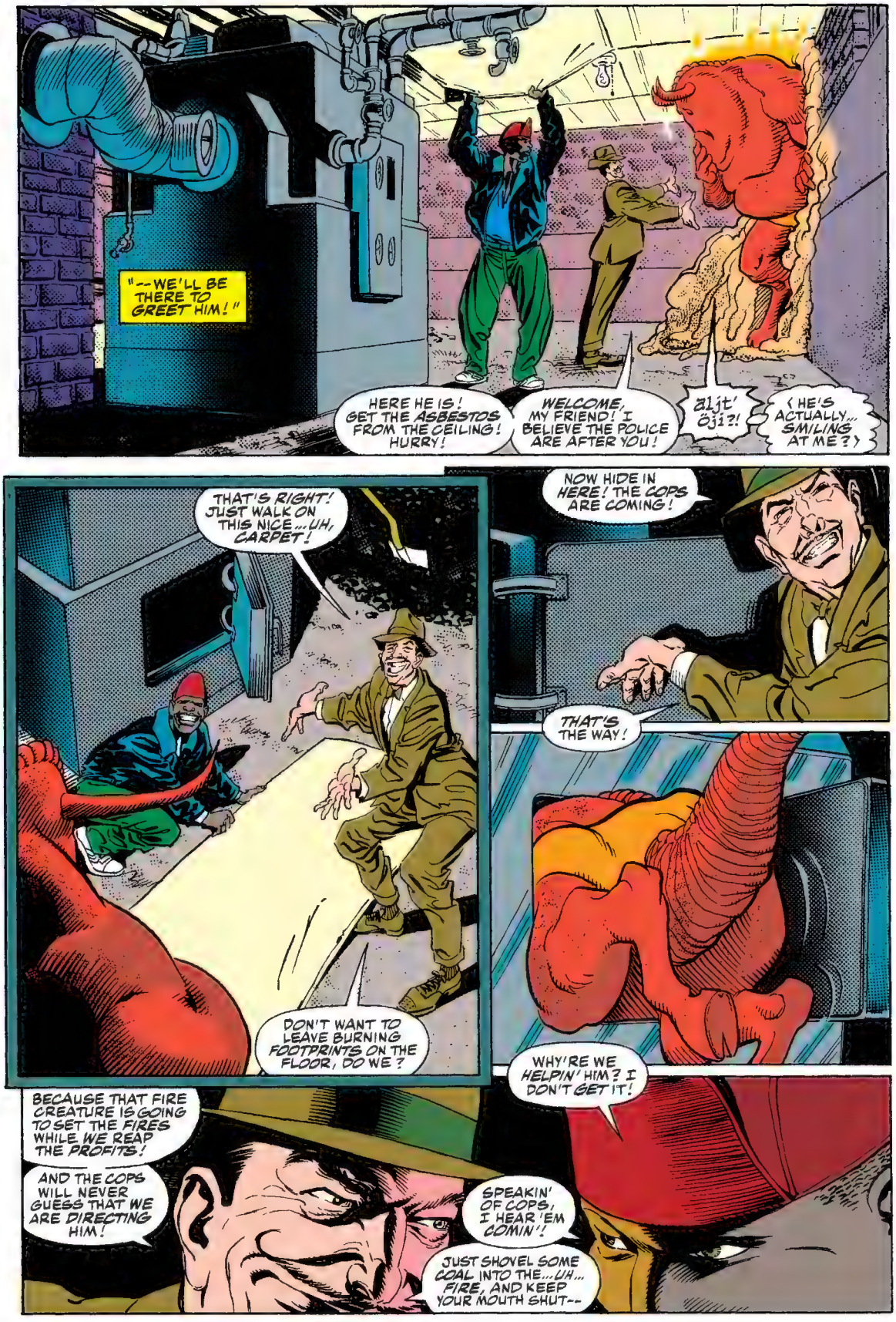

"--THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY OUT OF HERE!"
HELP!
HELP!
A FIRE... IN A HOB'S BAY TENEMENT! FIREMEN HEADED THIS WAY--
--BUT THEY WON'T GET THERE FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE THOSE FOLKS!
SUPERMAN, THANK HEAVEN!
COME ON, THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYBODY!
THERE'S MORE PEOPLE ON THE FIRE ESCAPE!
LET'S GET YOU DOWN TO THE GROUND--
"--AND THEN I'LL TACKLE THEM!"
IT'S COLLAPSING!
I'VE GOT YOU!
I PULLED THESE TWO OUT, SUPERMAN, BUT MY OTHER KIDS--
"--ARE STILL IN THERE!"
I TOLD YOU HE'D COME!
RUNNING WATER INTO THE BATHTUB WAS PRETTY SMART!
NOW HOLD ON AND I'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY!
(PEOPLE WERE IN THAT BUILDING...AND I BURNED IT! I HOPE I DIDN'T BURN THEM!)
(WHEREVER I AM, I'M NOT HOME! CAN THIS BE THAT WORLD THEY CALLED EARTH?)

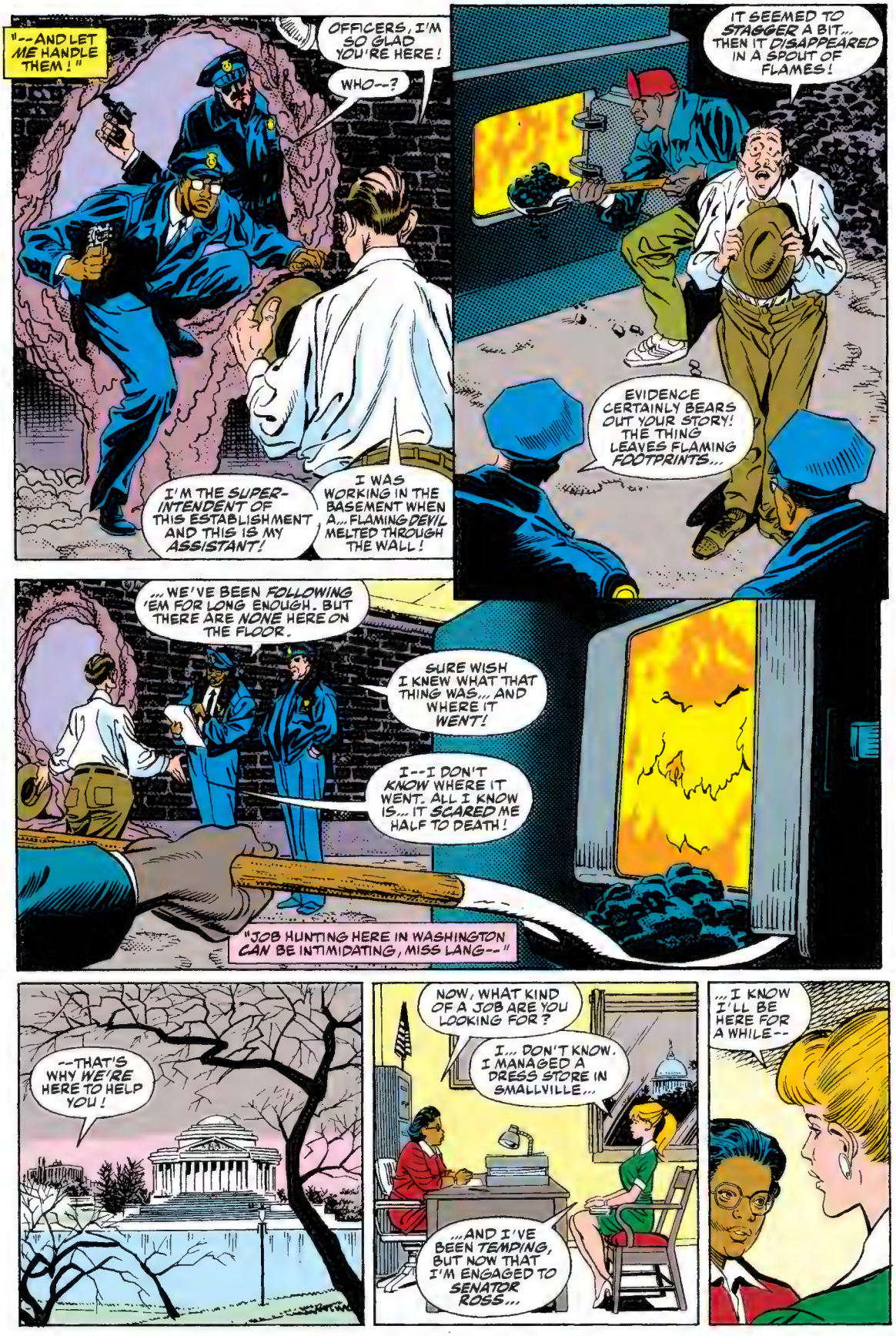

WE'VE EVACUATED THE ADJACENT BUILDINGS, SIR!
ONE OF THE EVACUEES SAID HE SAW A FIRE MONSTER!
I CAN ALMOST BELIEVE IT! I'VE NEVER SEEN A FIRE LIKE THIS ONE!
ASSISTANT CHIEF
FWOOM!
ALL THE RESIDENTS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR... EXCEPT A COUPLE OF KIDS. SUPERMAN WENT IN FOR 'EM, BUT--
GET BACK! THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSING!
SUPERMAN WAS IN THERE!
HE MIGHT SURVIVE THAT, BUT THE KIDS--
LOOK! THERE IN THE FLAMES!
IT'S SUPERMAN!
THE CHILDREN ARE WRAPPED IN HIS CAPE!
GET THOSE EMT'S OVER HERE, QUICK!
THEY'RE NOT BURNED?
NO, I MOVED FAST! I'M AFRAID THEY'VE TAKEN IN A LOT OF SMOKE, THOUGH.
HELP! KOFF! H-HELP...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE JIMMY OLSEN!

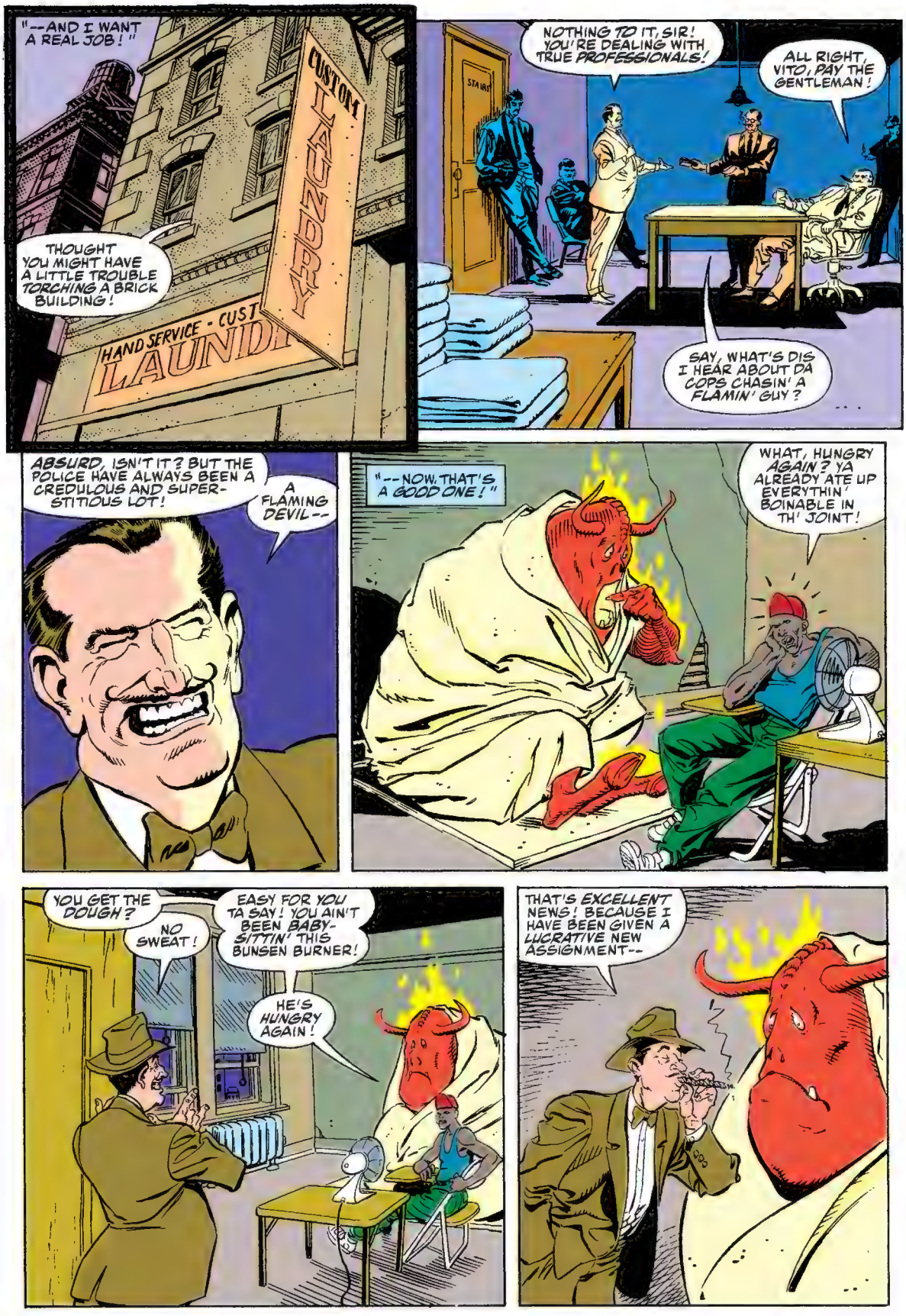

HOLD ON, JIMMY! I'LL FIND YOU!
BLAST! WHERE IS HE? AND WHAT IS HE DOING TRAPPED--
"--IN THIS INFERNO?"
HEY, LOOK! THERE IS A FIRE MONSTER!
AFTER HIM!
POLICE
(FIRST I REALIZE SOMETHING ON THIS WORLD IS MAKING ME SO HUNGRY, I CAN'T SHUT OFF MY FLAME.)
(THEN THESE HUMANS START CHASING ME! DOES EVERYBODY HERE HATE ME?)
HEY, ARNIE, WHY'RE WE CHASIN' THE COPS?
IT ISN'T THE COPS WE'RE CHASING, YOU NITWIT!
WE'RE FOLLOWIN' THAT SUPER-POWERED CRAZY? BUT--
WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP
"SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR RUNNING, FREDDY! I HAVE A PLAN!"
SUPERMAN! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HUSQUE PULLED ME IN HERE! HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO :KOFF: SEND PROFESSOR HAMILTON BACK FROM EXILE WORLD!
BUT :KOFF: A MONSTER APPEARED INSTEAD AND SET THE BUILDING ON FIRE!
:KOFF: I TRIED TO GET THROUGH THE COAL SHUTTLE, BUT IT'S BEEN BLOCKED OFF!
BWAM
THEN LET'S UN-BLOCK IT, SHALL WE?
BUT WHAT ABOUT PROFESSOR HAMILTON? DOES :KOFF: THIS MEAN HE'S STILL LOST--

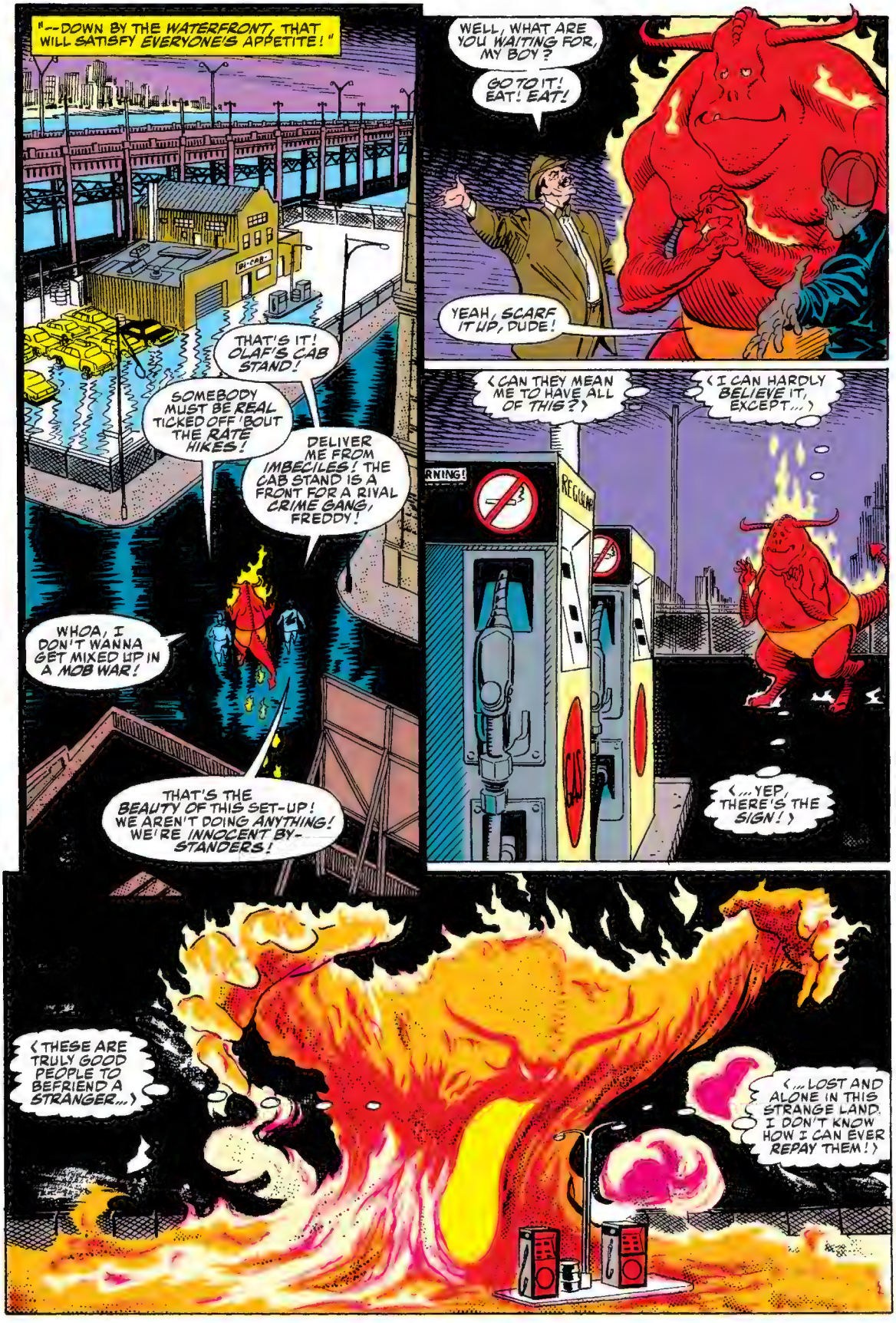

"--ON EXILE WORLD?"
BWAM
<THEY'RE HIDING IN THE ATTIC. DOOR'S BLOCKED-->
THEY'VE FOUND US!
I CAN HOLD THEM OFF FOR A WHILE!
<THE COLORS! AARGHH!>
NOW, WHILE THEY'RE DAZZLED! OUT THE WINDOW! HURRY!
WE COULD USE FLASHPOINT NOW! THOSE ENFORCERS WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
AND OUR PLAN TO BLOW UP SIMYAN AND MOKKARI'S CASTLE DEPENDED ON HIM TO LIGHT THE KEGS.
ONLY HE COULD WALK OUT OF THAT INFERNO ALIVE!
<HOW COULD I HAVE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE? PROFESSOR HAMILTON IS STILL ON EXILE WORLD...>
<...AND FLASHPOINT IS TRAPPED ON EARTH, WHERE I LONG TO BE.>
CHEER UP, HUSQUE. AT LEAST ON EARTH--

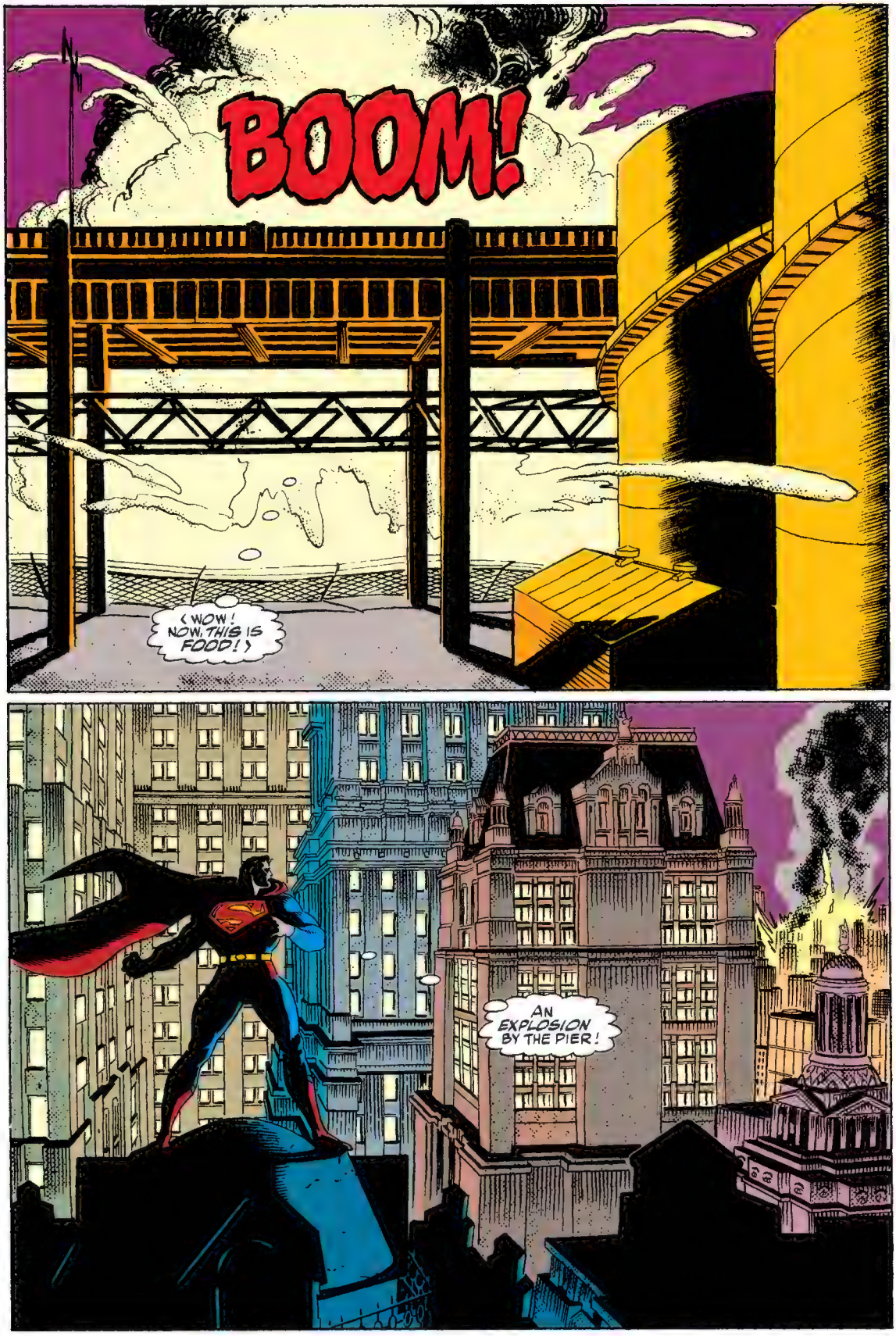

"--FLASH-POINT WON'T BE DODGING BULLETS!"
gljãs tp as; ejty!
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
WHO SAYS THAT GIBBERISH IS A LANGUAGE?
THERE HE GOES!
IT'S A BLIND ALLEY! WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED!
(IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND ME!)
(I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! I'VE GOT TO HIDE! BUT WHERE?)
(OOPS!)
THAT THING SET FIRE TO THE GARBAGE!
MAYBE THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AS EASY AS WE THOUGHT!
GUESS WE'RE LEAVIN' NOW, HUH? NO MATTER WHAT HE BURNS--
--HE'S STILL CORNERED IN THERE AN' WIT' THE COPS AN' ALL--
THINK, FREDDY! WE KNOW HE WON'T BE TRAPPED BY THE ALLEY--
--BECAUSE WE'VE SEEN HIM MELT THROUGH BRICK!
OH... YEAH!
NOW, AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING...
BY NOW HE'S PROBABLY BURNING HIS WAY INTO THE BASEMENT, AND WHEN HE ARRIVES--
CRASH!

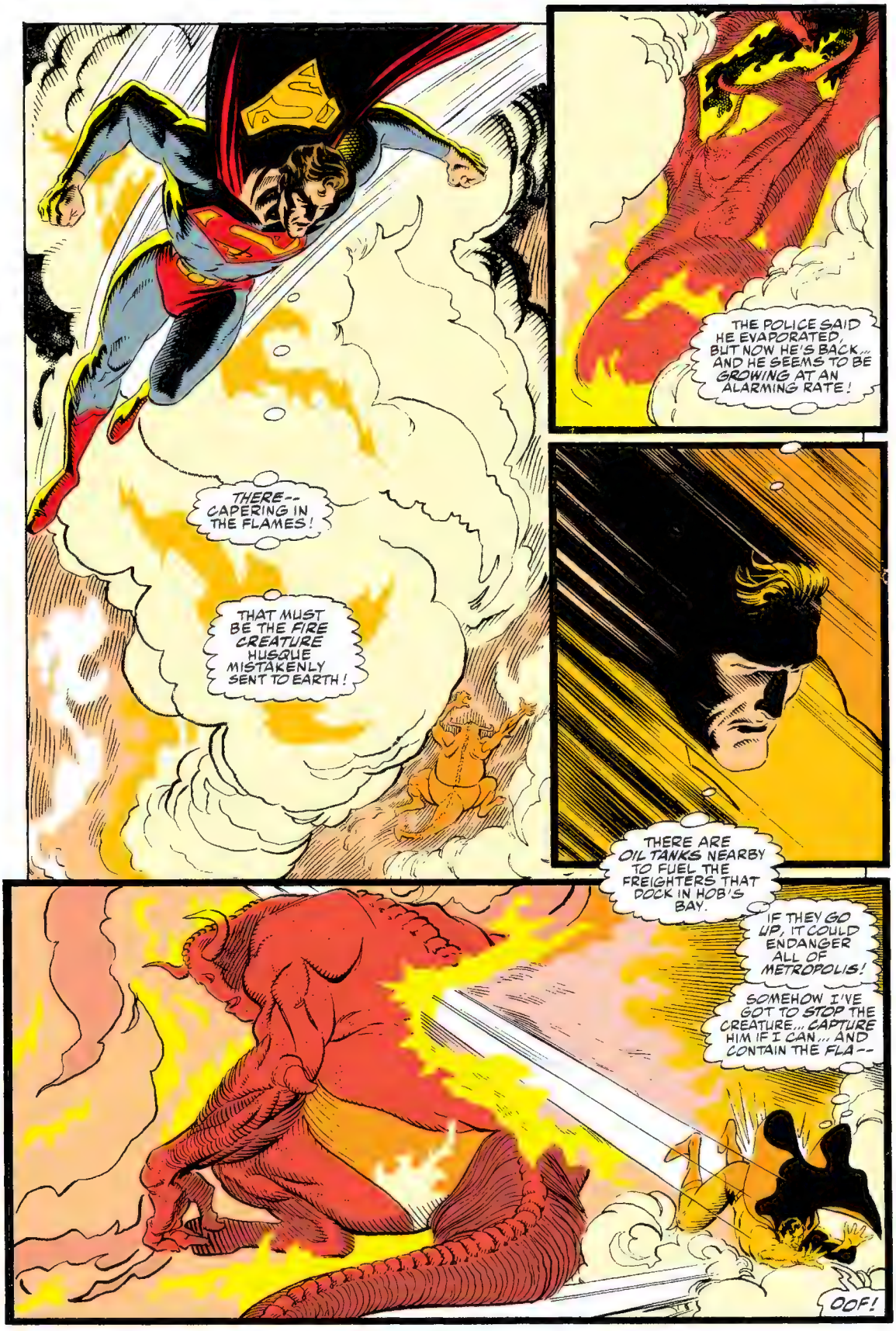

"--WE'LL BE THERE TO GREET HIM!"
HERE HE IS! GET THE ASBESTOS FROM THE CEILING! HURRY!
WELCOME, MY FRIEND! I BELIEVE THE POLICE ARE AFTER YOU!
äljt' öji?!
(HE'S ACTUALLY... SMILING AT ME?)
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST WALK ON THIS NICE... UH, CARPET!
NOW HIDE IN HERE! THE COPS ARE COMING!
THAT'S THE WAY!
DON'T WANT TO LEAVE BURNING FOOTPRINTS ON THE FLOOR, DO WE?
WHY'RE WE HELPIN' HIM? I DON'T GET IT!
BECAUSE THAT FIRE CREATURE IS GOING TO SET THE FIRES WHILE WE REAP THE PROFITS!
AND THE COPS WILL NEVER GUESS THAT WE ARE DIRECTING HIM!
SPEAKIN' OF COPS, I HEAR 'EM COMIN'!
JUST SHOVEL SOME COAL INTO THE... UH... FIRE, AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT--


"--AND LET ME HANDLE THEM!"
OFFICERS, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
WHO--?
I'M THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT AND THIS IS MY ASSISTANT!
I WAS WORKING IN THE BASEMENT WHEN A... FLAMING DEVIL MELTED THROUGH THE WALL!
IT SEEMED TO STAGGER A BIT... THEN IT DISAPPEARED IN A SPOUT OF FLAMES!
EVIDENCE CERTAINLY BEARS OUT YOUR STORY! THE THING LEAVES FLAMING FOOTPRINTS...
...WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING 'EM FOR LONG ENOUGH. BUT THERE ARE NONE HERE ON THE FLOOR.
SURE WISH I KNEW WHAT THAT THING WAS... AND WHERE IT WENT!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT WENT. ALL I KNOW IS... IT SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH!
"JOB HUNTING HERE IN WASHINGTON CAN BE INTIMIDATING, MISS LANG--"
--THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!
NOW, WHAT KIND OF A JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I... DON'T KNOW. I MANAGED A DRESS STORE IN SMALLVILLE...
...AND I'VE BEEN TEMPING, BUT NOW THAT I'M ENGAGED TO SENATOR ROSS...
...I KNOW I'LL BE HERE FOR A WHILE--


"--AND I WANT A REAL JOB!"
CUSTOM LAUNDRY
HAND SERVICE - CUST
LAUNDR
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE TORCHING A BRICK BUILDING!
NOTHING TO IT, SIR! YOU'RE DEALING WITH TRUE PROFESSIONALS!
ALL RIGHT, VITO, PAY THE GENTLEMAN!
STAIRS
SAY, WHAT'S DIS I HEAR ABOUT DA COPS CHASIN' A FLAMIN' GUY?
ABSURD, ISN'T IT? BUT THE POLICE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A CREDULOUS AND SUPERSTITIOUS LOT!
A FLAMING DEVIL--
"--NOW, THAT'S A GOOD ONE!"
WHAT, HUNGRY AGAIN? YA ALREADY ATE UP EVERYTHIN' BOINABLE IN TH' JOINT!
YOU GET THE DOUGH?
NO SWEAT!
EASY FOR YOU TA SAY! YOU AIN'T BEEN BABY-SITTIN' THIS BUNSEN BURNER!
HE'S HUNGRY AGAIN!
THAT'S EXCELLENT NEWS! BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LUCRATIVE NEW ASSIGNMENT--


"--DOWN BY THE WATERFRONT, THAT WILL SATISFY EVERYONE'S APPETITE!"
BI-CAB
THAT'S IT! OLAF'S CAB STAND!
SOMEBODY MUST BE REAL TICKED OFF 'BOUT THE RATE HIKES!
DELIVER ME FROM IMBECILES! THE CAB STAND IS A FRONT FOR A RIVAL CRIME GANG, FREDDY!
WHOA, I DON'T WANNA GET MIXED UP IN A MOB WAR!
THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF THIS SET-UP! WE AREN'T DOING ANYTHING! WE'RE INNOCENT BY-STANDERS!
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MY BOY?
GO TO IT! EAT! EAT!
YEAH, SCARF IT UP, DUDE!
‹CAN THEY MEAN ME TO HAVE ALL OF THIS?›
‹I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, EXCEPT...›
RNING!
GAS
‹...YEP, THERE'S THE SIGN!›
‹THESE ARE TRULY GOOD PEOPLE TO BEFRIEND A STRANGER...›
‹...LOST AND ALONE IN THIS STRANGE LAND. I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN EVER REPAY THEM!›

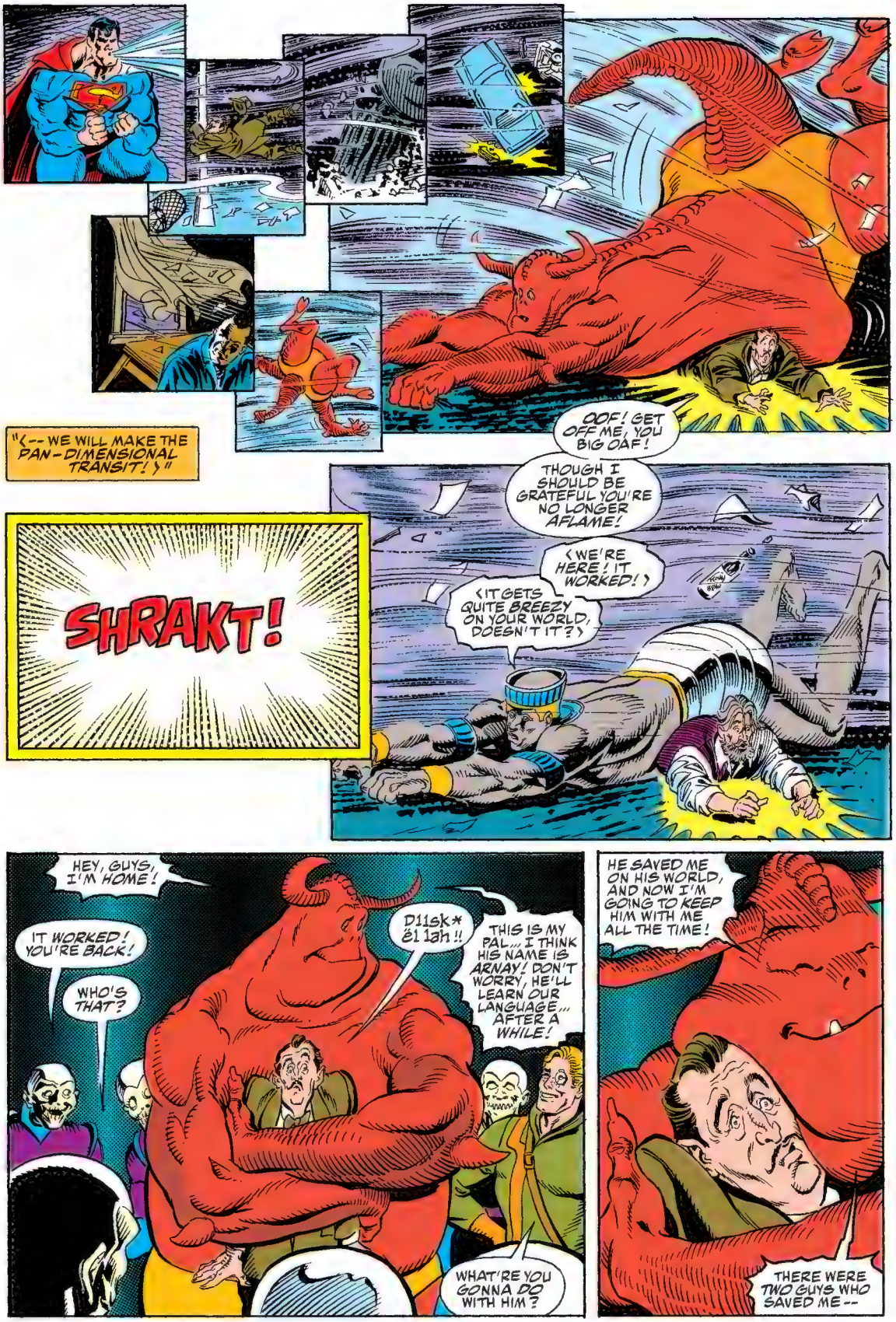

BOOM!
(WOW! NOW, THIS IS FOOD!)
AN EXPLOSION BY THE PIER!

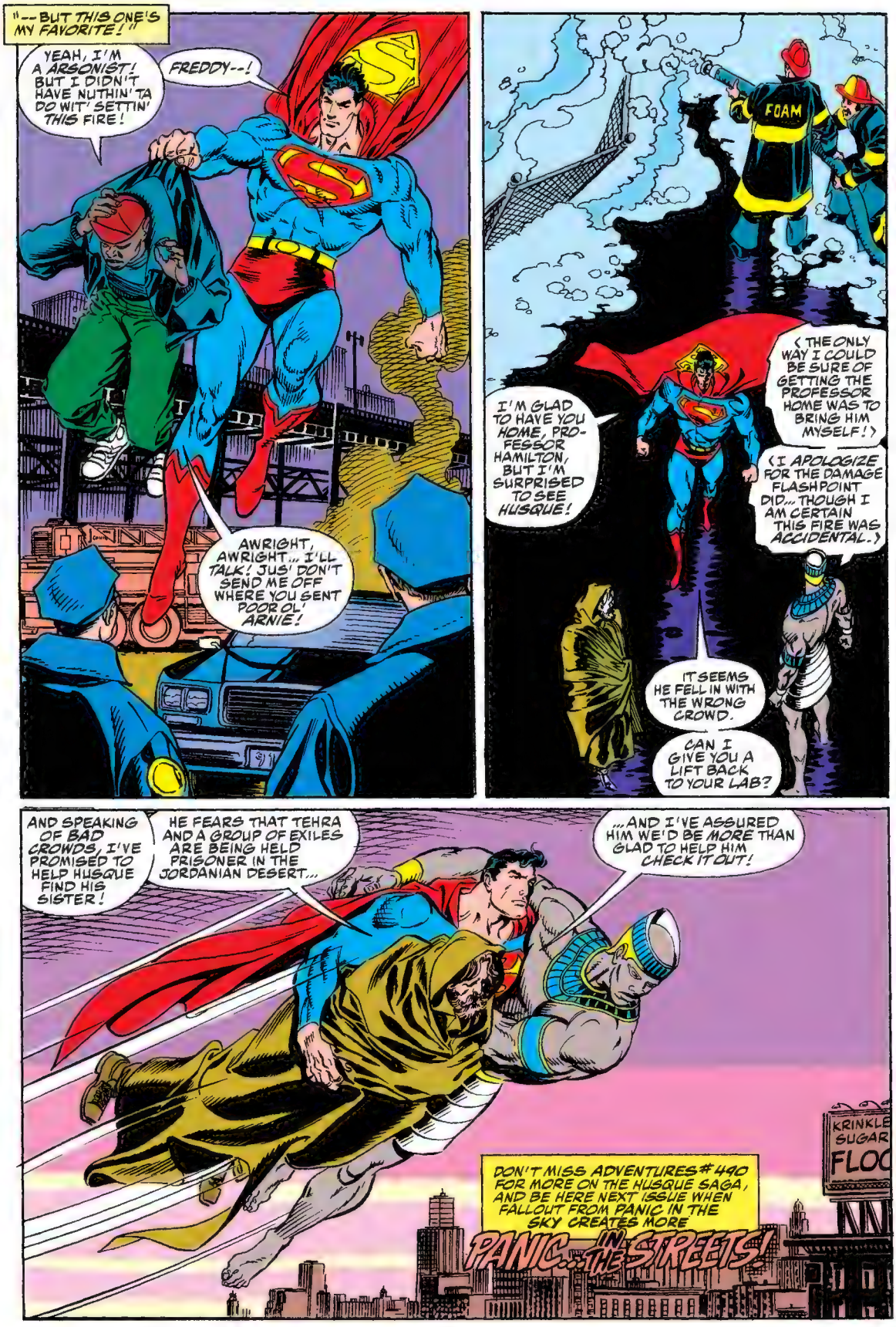

THERE-- CAPERING IN THE FLAMES!
THAT MUST BE THE FIRE CREATURE HUSQUE MISTAKENLY SENT TO EARTH!
THE POLICE SAID HE EVAPORATED, BUT NOW HE'S BACK... AND HE SEEMS TO BE GROWING AT AN ALARMING RATE!
THERE ARE OIL TANKS NEARBY TO FUEL THE FREIGHTERS THAT DOCK IN HOB'S BAY.
IF THEY GO UP, IT COULD ENDANGER ALL OF METROPOLIS!
SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO STOP THE CREATURE... CAPTURE HIM IF I CAN... AND CONTAIN THE FLA--
OOF!

IT LOOKS SOLID ENOUGH, BUT SEEMS TO BE INSUBSTANTIAL... MADE TOTALLY OF FLAME!
STILL, THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY TO STOP IT!
IT'S SUPERMAN! BEFORE HE SPOTS US-- RUN!
CAREFUL, BOSS, THE GROUND'S REAL--
--OILY!
YOWCH!
WHAT IF I--
HE WAS GETTING TOO HOT FOR COMFORT... EVEN FOR ME! BUT NOW HE SEEMS TO BE GROWING COOLER AND MORE SOLID!
MAYBE IF I--
PFOOF!
LOOKS LIKE MY CONCERN ABOUT HARMING HIM DOESN'T APPLY!

"HOW CAN I STOP HIM IF I CAN'T EVEN HOLD HIM?"
A FINE TOUR YOU'VE HAD OF EXILE WORLD, PROFESSOR HAMILTON.
FIRST A FIRE-FIGHT, THEN AN ATTIC AMBUSH, AND NOW THE ENERGY SEWERS!
AT LEAST WE EVADED SIMYAN AND MOKKARI'S ENFORCERS!
AND, AS LONG AS IT SEEMS I'LL BE ON EXILE WORLD FOR A WHILE, MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME WAY TO HOBBLE THOSE GOONS!
〈 WE HAD A PLAN TO FREE EXILE WORLD, BUT FLASHPOINT'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS BROUGHT IT TO A GRINDING HALT! 〉
NOW WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!
〈 NO! THE PRESENT PLAN IS EXCELLENT... AND IT WILL PROBABLY WORK! 〉
〈 BY ALL THE GODS, I'M GOING TO BRING FLASHPOINT BACK TO EXILE WORLD-- 〉
"〈-- AND TAKE PROFESSOR HAMILTON HOME WHERE HE BELONGS! 〉"
SO, MY BOY, YOU'VE LOCATED FLASHPOINT... BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS WILL WORK?
〈 I'VE NEVER TELEPORTED ANYONE WITH ME BEFORE, BUT YOUR SPHERE HAS HELPED HONE MY FOCUSING ABILITIES. 〉
YES, YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S NO REASON WHY IT SHOULDN'T WORK!
UNLESS, OF COURSE, WHOEVER YOU CHANGE WITH MUST POSSESS EQUAL MASS, IN WHICH CASE, YOU MIGHT HAVE TO--

"--SEND TWO PEOPLE BACK TO EXILE WORLD!"
<IT'S GREAT TO BE FULL AGAIN!>
THE FIRE CREATURE HAS GROWN SOLID AND QUIT FLAMING!
BUT THE FIRE ON THE DOCKS IS RAGING OUT OF CONTROL!
IT WOULD TAKE MORE WIND THAN I'VE GOT TO BLOW OUT A FIRE THAT BIG, BUT MAYBE I CAN RE-DIRECT IT AWAY FROM THE FUEL TANKS!
SOMEONE AT CADMUS MAY BE ABLE TO STUDY HAMILTON'S EQUIPMENT...
...AND DISCOVER A WAY TO SEND YOU HOME AND BRING HAMILTON BACK HERE...
...BUT RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO TAKE A BREATH!
<THIS HUMAN SEEMS QUITE PUT OUT WITH ME! AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM?>
<THIS TIME, MY EYES WERE CERTAINLY BIGGER THAN MY STOMACH!>
WHOOSH!
<MY, MY, MY! THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE HIM ON EXILE WORLD!>
"<PREPARE YOURSELF, PROFESSOR HAMILTON, FOR AS SOON AS FLASHPOINT STOPS MOVING--->"


"〈-- WE WILL MAKE THE PAN-DIMENSIONAL TRANSIT! 〉"
SHRAKT!
OOF! GET OFF ME, YOU BIG OAF!
THOUGH I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL YOU'RE NO LONGER AFLAME!
〈WE'RE HERE! IT WORKED!〉
〈IT GETS QUITE BREEZY ON YOUR WORLD, DOESN'T IT?〉
HEY, GUYS, I'M HOME!
IT WORKED! YOU'RE BACK!
WHO'S THAT?
D11sk* ël lah!!
THIS IS MY PAL... I THINK HIS NAME IS ARNAY! DON'T WORRY, HE'LL LEARN OUR LANGUAGE... AFTER A WHILE!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH HIM?
HE SAVED ME ON HIS WORLD, AND NOW I'M GOING TO KEEP HIM WITH ME ALL THE TIME!
THERE WERE TWO GUYS WHO SAVED ME--


"--BUT THIS ONE'S MY FAVORITE!"
YEAH, I'M A ARSONIST! BUT I DIDN'T HAVE NUTHIN' TA DO WIT' SETTIN' THIS FIRE!
FREDDY--!
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT... I'LL TALK! JUS' DON'T SEND ME OFF WHERE YOU SENT POOR OL' ARNIE!
FOAM
I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU HOME, PROFESSOR HAMILTON, BUT I'M SURPRISED TO SEE HUSQUE!
(THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE SURE OF GETTING THE PROFESSOR HOME WAS TO BRING HIM MYSELF!)
(I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DAMAGE FLASHPOINT DID... THOUGH I AM CERTAIN THIS FIRE WAS ACCIDENTAL.)
IT SEEMS HE FELL IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD.
CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK TO YOUR LAB?
AND SPEAKING OF BAD CROWDS, I'VE PROMISED TO HELP HUSQUE FIND HIS SISTER!
HE FEARS THAT TEHRA AND A GROUP OF EXILES ARE BEING HELD PRISONER IN THE JORDANIAN DESERT...
...AND I'VE ASSURED HIM WE'D BE MORE THAN GLAD TO HELP HIM CHECK IT OUT!
KRINKLE SUGAR
FLOC
DON'T MISS ADVENTURES #490 FOR MORE ON THE HUSQUE SAGA, AND BE HERE NEXT ISSUE WHEN FALLOUT FROM PANIC IN THE SKY CREATES MORE
PANIC... IN THE STREETS!

SEVEN DAYS AGO.

MYLA T'N WAS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS THE GREATEST WARRIOR ON K'LIN.

NOW, NOT ONLY IS SHE THE GREATEST, SHE'S ALSO THE LAST.

THESE FOUR PEOPLE -- HER FAMILY -- ARE THE LAST LIVING BEINGS ON K'LIN.

MYLA T'N HAS FOUGHT LONG AND HARD TO KEEP THEM THAT WAY.

FOR WEEKS THEY'VE HIDDEN IN CAVES, SEWERS AND TREES, NEARLY STARVING IN THE PROCESS. AND THOUGH THEY SURVIVED WAR-WORLD'S DEVASTATING ATTACK --

--THEY WON'T SURVIVE THE TERROR.

THE TERROR IS RELENTLESS.

IT ALWAYS SUCCEEDS. THERE SEEMS NO WAY TO ESCAPE IT SAVE ONE --

--AND MYLA T'N HAS RUN OUT OF OPTIONS.

BECAUSE ANY DEATH IS BETTER THAN THE TERROR'S.

BUT ULTIMATELY THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

THE TERROR STILL CATCHES THEM... AND CLEANS THEIR BONES BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN HIT THE GROUND.

K'LIN IS DEAD.

EVERY LIFE EXTINGUISHED.

EVERY SOUL GONE.

EVERY PLANT, EVERY ANIMAL, EVERY HUMANOID--

--DEAD.

ITS JOB OF ANNIHILATION AND DESTRUCTION DONE, THE TERROR RE-FORMS ITSELF--

--AND TURNS ITS ATTENTIONS--

--ELSEWHERE.

TODAY.

METROPOLIS'S SUICIDE SLUM.

NOW MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS HOB'S BAY, IT HAS SEEN A GREAT DEAL OF ITS OWN PARTICULAR KIND OF TERROR.

CLOSED

MORE HOOCH, JAKE?

HOOCH?!

METROPOLIS

SEWER WORK

AIN'T NOBODY CALLS IT HOOCH NO MORE, FRANKIE!

'CEPT MABEE JOHN WAYNE AND I THINK HE'S DEAD!

THE DUKE *DEAD?* WHEN THE HECK DID THAT HAPPEN?

SPLISH

SPLISSH SPLOSH

YOU HEAR SUMMTHIN'?

YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S DEM *WEIRD MUTHAS?*

IT'S GOTTA BE!

RUNNNNG

ANOTHER PANIC IN THE SKY!

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story & layouts • finishes
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

JOHN COSTANZA • GLENN WHITMORE
lettering • colorist
DAN THORSLAND • MIKE CARLIN
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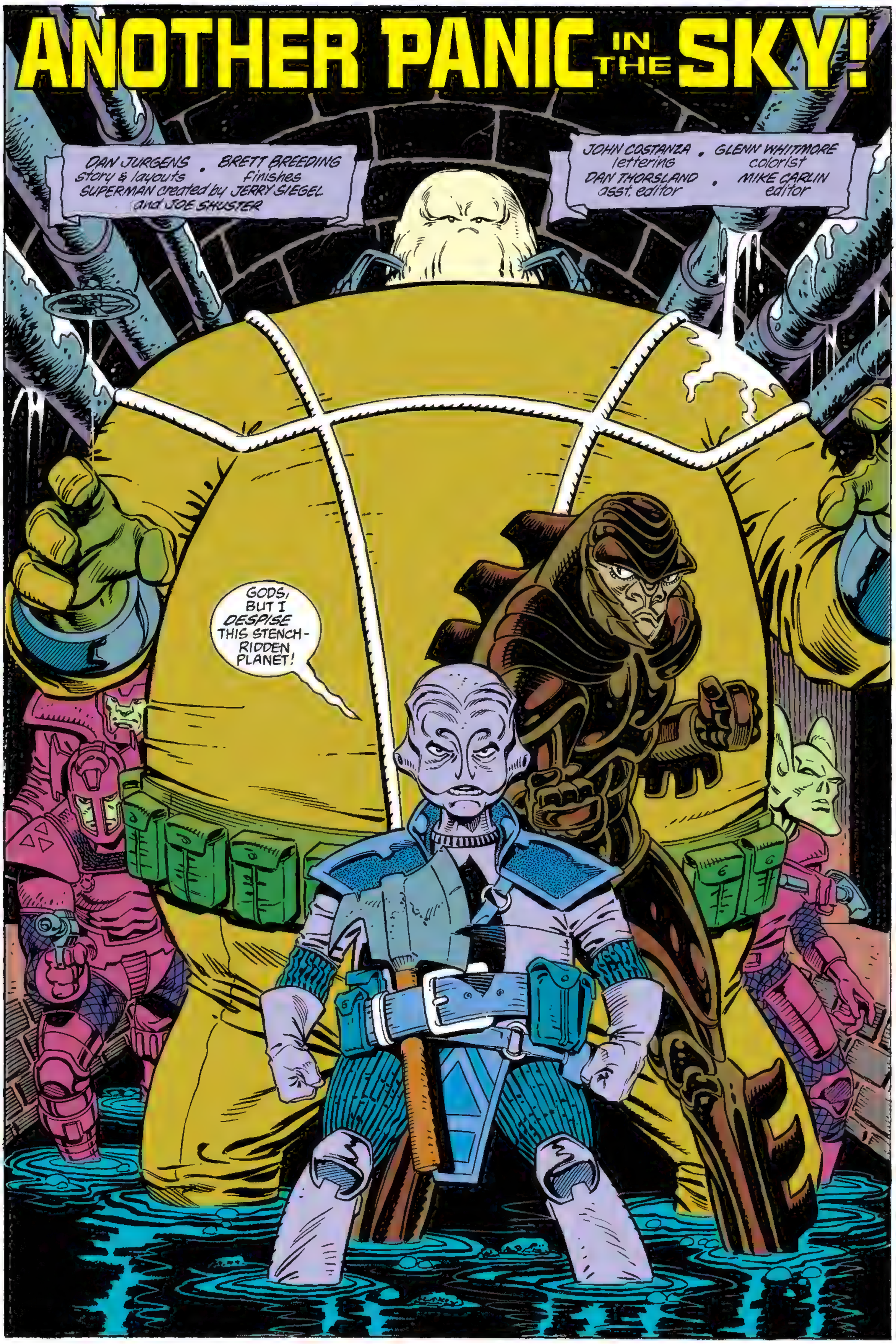

OF ALL THE PLACES IN THE UNIVERSE TO BE STRANDED--

--WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE *THIS* STUPID, PRIMITIVE DUNG HILL OF A PLANET?

WE'RE *DOOMED* HERE!

TK-TK! YOU THINK IT HAPPEN? TK!

TK-TK! YOU THINK IT COME? TK!

OF *COURSE* THE *SWARM* WILL COME! WARWORLD MAY HAVE FAILED TO CONQUER EARTH BUT I KNOW *BRAINIAC*--

--AND I'LL BET MY FOOD RATIONS HE SUMMONED THE SWARM!

TK-TK LEAVE PLANET! WE *LEAVE* PLANET! TK!

Hurf hurf! SHIPPP!

A SHIP? WHAT A JOKE!

THESE HUMANS HAVE BARELY REACHED THEIR MOON! LIKE I SAID, WE'RE *DOOMED!*

EVERY LIVING ORGANISM ON THIS ROCK IS GOING TO DIE--

"--AND THOSE COSTUMED ONES THAT DEFEATED WARWORLD WILL BE *NO EXCEPTION!*"

WELL? HOW DID YOU LIKE THE MOVIE, LOIS?

OH, IT WAS OKAY, CLARK. BUT I HAVE TO CONFESS--

--THAT I LIKED THE COMPANY A WHOLE LOT MORE.

AT LEAST WE GOT TO BEAT THE RUSH BY SEEING AN AFTERNOON MEDIA SCREENING!

SINGLES

MENU

DO YOU REMEMBER THE *FIRST* MOVIE YOU EVER SAW?

OH, DO I!

IT WAS "*SNOW WHITE*" AND I WAS SO YOUNG THAT THE WITCH SCARED THE BEJEEBERS OUT OF ME!

CAFE OKAY

CafeOKAY!

AS I GOT OLDER MY FATHER STARTED TAKING ME TO THINGS LIKE "*ICE STATION ZEBRA*" AND "*THE DIRTY DOZEN*"!

I GUESS I WAS DOING DUTY AS A SURROGATE SON. HOW ABOUT YOUR FIRST MOVIE?

OH, I'LL NEVER FORGET IT! I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD AND THE SMALLVILLE THEATRE WAS SHOWING SOME CLASSICS!

WE HAD OUR CHOICE OF TWO MOVIES ONE WARM SATURDAY NIGHT.

PA WANTED TO SEE "*ZORRO*" BUT MA WANTED TO SEE SOMETHING ELSE. IT WAS UP TO ME TO CAST THE DE-CIDING VOTE--

--AND I WENT FOR "*TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*"!

REALLY? MOST BOYS WOULD *KILL* TO SEE "*ZORRO*"!

I SUPPOSE SO. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHY I CHOSE IT. ALL I KNOW--

--IS THAT IT MADE A *BIG* IMPRESSION ON ME.

THE FILM'S MESSAGE OF JUSTICE *IS* KIND OF--

WAIT! SCREAMS--LOTS OF THEM OFF IN THE DISTANCE!

SOUNDS LIKE BIG TIME TROUBLE!

SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM WAY DOWNTOWN!

TELESCOPIC VISION TIME.

"WHOA! NO WONDER PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY!"

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT... THING IS--"

--BUT I DO KNOW IT LOOKS LIKE *TROUBLE!*

SUPER TROUBLE, I'LL BET!

DOES THIS MEAN LOIS LANE GETS THE EXCLUSIVE OVER CLARK KENT?

THAT'S *YOUR* JOB, LOIS. ME?

I HAVE MY *OWN* JOB TO DO.

OF ALL THE BLOODY TIMES FOR SUPERGIRL TO BE COMATOSE! SHE'D BE *PERFECT* FOR STUDYING THIS PHENOMENON!

I CAN'T BRING HER OUT OF IT EITHER! WE NEED HER UNCONSCIOUS TO COMPLETE THESE BIOSCANS!

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO STUDY IT ON OUR OWN! US--

"--AND SUPERMAN!"

IS THAT SOME KIND OF CLOUD OR IS IT-- *ALIVE?*

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S HEADED FOR THE *NEWSTIME* BUILDING!

WHADDAYA SUPPOSE *THAT* IS?

BEATS ME, ROD! IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T GET TOO--

--CLOSE?

ARRRGH!

IT--IT'S STRIPPING THE FLESH RIGHT OFF HIS BONES!

THERE'S NOTHING *LEFT!*

EVERYBODY INTO THE ELEVATOR *NOW!*

YOU DON'T HAFTA TELL *ME* TWICE!

INCREDIBLE! IT DEFIES DESCRIPTION!

MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T EVEN PENETRATE IT!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? *GO!*

IT'S *JAMMED!* THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GETTING OFF THIS SCAFFOLDING IS TO *JUMP!*

FORGET *JUMPING!* JUST HANG ON AND I'LL GET THE LOT OF YOU DOWN!

WE'RE HANGING ON, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD--! *HURRY!*

THAT CLOUD SEEMS TO BE DOUBLING IN SIZE EVERY FEW SECONDS! AND IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER--

--I'D SAY IT WAS *INTENTIONALLY* FOLLOWING US!

SINCE IT'S ALREADY KILLED ONCE I'LL HAVE TO ASSUME IT'S TOTALLY HOSTILE! I'LL HAVE TO SLOW IT DOWN SOME-HOW--

--AND THE *BEST* WAY TO DO THAT--

--IS WITH *HEAT VISION!*

TSSSSS

NOTHING! IT SWALLOWED THE ENERGY RIGHT UP!

AND NOW IT'S GOING FOR THAT BUS FULL OF PEOPLE!

MIDTOWN 6

WLEX

HAVE TO GET THOSE FOLKS OUT OF THERE BEFORE--

RADIO WLEX

TOO LATE! IT ATE RIGHT THROUGH THE FUEL TANK--!

IT'S LIKE IT *KNOWS* WHAT IT'S DOING! AND RIGHT NOW--

--IT LOOKS LIKE BLACKY WANTS *ME!*

HUHHN! HUHHN!

HUHHGH!

EATING ME ALIVE--! FROM THE INSIDE--!

CAN BARELY-- MOVE...!

HAVE... TO... TRY--

--TO GET OUT OF HERE--

KKRAK

OOM

--BY GOING DOWN UNDER!

GOOD! THAT BLOOD SUCKER IS FOLLOWING ME!

NEED A FEW SECONDS TO... CATCH MY BREATH!

FEEL TOTALLY DRAINED... WORSE THAN GOING TOE TO TOE WITH *DARKSEID!*

THOSE PEOPLE ON THAT BUS-- I--I COULDN'T--!

--PEOPLE?

:Hurf- Hurf!: SOOO-

--PERRR--

--MANNN!

HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE BEFORE EVEN MORE--

WHAT IN THE WORLD--

--ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY SECRETARY TOLD ME I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE APPOINTMENTS THIS AFTERNOON!

SHE WAS AWAY FROM HER DESK SO I THOUGHT I'D BE RUDE AND BARGE IN ON YOU, SENATOR ROSS!

THE NAME'S JAY HARRIMAN. MAYBE YOUR PREDECESSOR MENTIONED ME?

HE DID INDEED. YOU REPRESENT THE LIBERTY RIFLE ASSOCIATION, CORRECT?

THAT'S RIGHT. AND WE'RE HOPING WE CAN COUNT ON YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THE *GUN CONTROL* BILL COMING UP!

SEE, WE FEEL IT JUST GOES TOO FAR--THAT IT'S ABSOLUTELY *UN-*AMERICAN!

I'M SURE THE *MAJORITY* OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS IN KANSAS WOULD AGREE WITH US!

CERTAINLY YOU'RE AWARE THAT SENATOR CALDWELL *WROTE* THIS BILL! HE BELIEVED IN IT PASSIONATELY--

--AND WOULD BE WORKING HARD TO PASS IT IF HE HADN'T BEEN *MURDERED!* I HAVE TO HONOR HIS MEMORY AND VOTE *FOR* THE BILL!

I AM SORRY TO HEAR THAT, SENATOR. OH, WELL... HOW ARE YOU ADJUSTING TO *WASHINGTON?*

COMING ALONG, MR. HARRIMAN! SOON AS MY FIANCÉE LANA, FINDS A JOB, WE'LL REALLY BE ABLE TO SETTLE DOWN!

OH, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, SENATOR! SOMETHING TELLS ME YOUR LADY FRIEND WILL HAVE A JOB OFFER--

"--SOONER THAN SHE THINKS!"

YOU MEAN YOU'VE FOUND ME A JOB *ALREADY?* I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

BELIEVE IT, MISS LANG! A *VERY* INFLUENTIAL JUDGE'S OFFICE CALLED AND ASKED FOR SOMEONE WITH *YOUR* EXACT SKILLS!

WE TOLD THEM ABOUT YOU AND GOT YOU AN INTERVIEW WITH THE JUDGE IN ONE HOUR!

April

OVERWO AND UNDERPA

JUST MONTHS AGO I WAS SO DEPRESSED THINKING ABOUT HOW *BLEAK* THE OUTLOOK WAS! BUT NOW I'M ENGAGED TO PETE AND THERE'S A JOB ON THE HORIZON!

GUESS IT JUST GOES TO SHOW--

"--THAT IT'S ALWAYS *DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN!*"

WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE CLOUD IS COMPOSED OF, MR. LUTHOR! IT SIMPLY *DEFIES* ANALYSIS!

THE BEASTIE IS MOST LIKELY OF UNEARTHLY ORIGIN, MISS ROYCE! LET'S RECALIBRATE THE EQUIPMENT FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ANALYSIS!

WE BETTER DO *SOMETHING* BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE BECAUSE WORD HAS IT THAT AN ENTIRE CITY BLOCK HAS DISAPPEARED!

LOOKS LIKE SUPERMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THIS THE WAY HE DID *WARWORLD!*

WARWORLD?

NOW, THERE'S A THOUGHT! PULL OUT MY WARWORLD RECORDS--

"--AND LET'S SEE IF THESE BLOODY THREATS ARE RELATED!"

YOU WERE ALL WARRIORS WITH *WAR-WORLD.*

THIS KILLER CLOUD PROBABLY ANSWERS TO YOUR EVERY WHIM!

ARE YOU *KIDDIN'*? WE'RE GONNA BE FOOD FOR THAT SUCKER JUST LIKE *YOU* ARE!

YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO EXPLAIN BEFORE I TAKE YOU ALL APART!

FIRST OFF, WE'VE BEEN STRANDED ON THIS ROCK EVER SINCE YOU CRANKED BRAINIAC!

AS FOR THAT CLOUD--

--IT'S REALLY CALLED THE *SWARM*. SORT OF A COSMIC STERILIZATION TOOL!

SEE, WHEN WARWORLD HAS FINISHED MAULING A PLANET THERE'S USUALLY SO MUCH ROTTING FLESH AND CHEMICAL BACTERIA IN THE ATMOSPHERE--

--THAT IT BECOMES UNINHABITABLE EVEN FOR WARWORLD SETTLERS!

SO WE CALL IN THE *SWARM* AND THEY COME DOWN AND EAT THE MILLIONS OF DEAD BODIES AND SCRUB THE PLACE *CLEAN!*

IT'S THE ULTIMATE DISPOSAL SYSTEM!

BUT THE PLANET IS ALIVE--IF WARWORLD HASN'T OVERRUN IT--

"--IT'S THE ULTIMATE DESTROYER!"

"THAT'S WHY WE WANT OUTTA HERE, SUPERMAN! YOUR TOWN--HECK, YOUR WHOLE BLASTED WORLD IS GOOD AS DEAD!"

EVERY BIT OF DETAIL OUR TRACKING DEVICES RECORDED ON THE WARWORLD EPISODE IS ON THIS DISK!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION?

NO TELLIN', DARLIN'! BUT SINCE WE'VE EXHAUSTED EVERY OTHER POSSIBILITY--

THIS IS IT, MR. LUTHOR!

--WE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE BY TAKING A LOOK!

WE HAVE TO TRY EVERYTHING AND *THEN SOME*, BECAUSE FOR ALL WE KNOW, THAT CLOUD IS--

:HURF!: UNNN--

--SSSSTOPPP--

--ABLLLE!

THE LUG IS RIGHT! NOTHING HAS EVER-- *EVER* STOPPED THE SWARM!

THEY EAT EVERY BIO-ORGANISM, LIVING OR DEAD, AND FLATTEN BUILDINGS TO LEAVE ROOM FOR RECONSTRUCTION!

WELL, THEY WON'T SUCCEED HERE! MAYBE NO *DECIMATED* PLANET COULD STOP THE SWARM, BUT WE'RE *ALIVE* AND KICKING!

WE--

AIEEEE!

TK-TK! IT HERE! IT *HERE!* TK-TK!

BLAST! I DIDN'T THINK THE SWARM WOULD GET DOWN HERE SO SOON!

IF IT'S HERE ALREADY THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT IT'S DOING ON THE SURFACE!

HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP IT! I *CAN'T* LET BRAINIAC HAVE THE LAST LAUGH!

OUR COMRADES ARE DEAD! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN!

=HURF!= R-RRRUN!

MY GOD! THE *SWARM* HAS SPREAD OUT OVER MOST OF METROPOLIS ALREADY!

LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T DROPPED DOWN IN TOO MANY LOCATIONS-- YET!

MAYBE IT WAITS UNTIL IT HAS A LARGE AREA COVERED AND THEN *DESCENDS* IN ORDER TO "*SANITIZE*" IT ALL AT ONCE!

AND THAT MIGHT GIVE ME THE TIME I NEED TO BEAT IT!

HAVE TO FLY UP TO IT WITH ALL THE FORCE I CAN MUSTER...

:UGH!: AND HOPE THAT I'VE BUILT UP... ENOUGH STEAM--

TO CARRY ME... THROUGH--

...NO MATTER HOW *PAINFUL* IT IS!

MADE IT! BARELY-- BUT I *MADE* IT!

IF I SPIN FAST ENOUGH NOW I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CREATE A STRONG ENOUGH *VORTEX*--

--TO PULL THIS CLOUD OF BLACK DEATH RIGHT *OFF* METROPOLIS!

PEOPLE ARE REALLY LOSING IT! BUT THIS ISN'T THE END!

IT'S THE END! *THE END!*

CLARK WILL FIND A WAY TO BEAT THIS! I *KNOW* HE WILL!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF METROPOLIS, THIS 'S LEX LUTHOR II SPEAKING.

AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW BY NOW, A CLOUD OF TREMENDOUS SIZE AND LETHAL CAPABILITY THREATENS OUR FAIR CITY!

IT DIDN'T WORK! HAVE TO GET BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND TO SEE, WHAT I CAN DO!

THOUGH SUPERMAN HAS TRIED, HE HAS YET TO DEFEAT THIS MONSTROSITY! I, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY.

America

THAT PLANE! I CAN'T LET THOSE PEOPLE DIE THE SAME GRISLY DEATH THE BUS PASSENGERS DID!

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHEN WARWORLD ATTACKED, I HAD MY INSTRUMENTS RECORD ITS EVERY MOVE IN HOPES WE COULD FIND ITS WEAKNESS.

GOT IT! IT'S MOVING SO FAST--AND HAS SO MUCH MASS--THAT I CAN BARELY PULL IT!

JUST BEFORE ITS DEFEAT, WARWORLD SENT OUT A SMALL DEVICE THAT HAS BEEN EMITTING A POWERFUL SIGNAL CALL EVER SINCE!

MADE IT! BUT IF I DON'T GET RID OF THE *SWARM* I WILL HAVE DONE NOTHING MORE THAN BUY THESE PEOPLE A FEW PRECIOUS MINUTES!

"I BELIEVE THIS DEVICE HAS SUMMONED THE CLOUD. MY COMPUTERS HAVE TRACKED THIS LETHAL SIREN--

BEEEP EEEEP

"--AND I HAVE DISPATCHED TEAM LUTHOR TO RETRIEVE IT! IT MAY BE THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION!"

AT LEAST THE PLANE IS SAFE FOR NOW! BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T SOLVE THE BIG PROBLEM FOR ME--

--WHICH IS RIDDING OURSELVES OF THAT CLOUD.

I'VE ISOLATED THE SIGNAL WARWORLD'S DEVICE IS EMITTING AND HAVE MANAGED TO DUPLICATE IT.

BOY, ARE WE EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU, SUPERMAN! THAT THING WAS EATING ITS WAY RIGHT INTO OUR HIGH-RISE!

FIGURES! AS THE *SWARM* DESCENDS THE HIGHEST APARTMENT BUILDINGS WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO!

BETTER GET BACK AND CONTINUE THE EVACUATION BEFORE--

:AHHH!:

KRA-KAKKK

I'VE DUPLICATED THOSE SIGNALS INTO A LEXCORP COMMUN-ICATIONS SATELLITE WHICH IS CURRENTLY ORBITING EARTH! MY PLAN--

"--IS TO PROPEL THE SATELLITE FAR INTO SPACE WHILE IT EMITS THE SAME SIGNAL THAT DREW THE KILLING CLOUD TO EARTH!

BEEE-EEP

"WE CAN ONLY HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE CLOUD WILL TURN TO FOLLOW THE SIGNAL--

"--BEFORE IT CAN DO US ANY MORE HARM!

"OUR LONG-RANGE SENSORS REPORT THAT THE CLOUD HAS RE-FORMED AND IS NOW ABANDONING ITS MAD SCHEME!

TEAM LUTHOR HAS BROUGHT WARWORLD'S DEVICE TO ME AND WE HAVE DEACTIVATED IT. WITH THE SIGNAL GONE--

--THE CLOUD SHOULD FOLLOW MY SATELLITE AS IT HURTLES THROUGH SPACE FOREVER!

REST EASY, MATES. YOU ARE SAFE ONCE AGAIN.

CUT! YOU'RE OFF THE AIR, MR. LUTHOR!

YOU WANT I SHOULD TRASH THIS THING, BOSS?

CERTAINLY *NOT!* TAKE IT TO MY PERSONAL LAB AND LOCK IT IN THE SAFETY CHAMBER!

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN IT WILL BE OF USE--

"--FOR LEXCORP."
IT'S GONE! THE BLACK CLOUD IS GONE!
WE'RE SAFE!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID IT GO?
YOU DIDN'T HEAR, SUPERMAN? IT WAS LEX LUTHOR! HE FOUND A WAY TO SEND THAT THING BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM!
LUTHOR?! YOU'RE KIDDING!
NO WAY! THE MAN'S A REAL HERO!
WAY TO GO, LUTHOR!
WOOOOO! EHAAAA!
THE THREAT IS OVER AND METROPOLIS IS SAFE. SO, WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I LOST?
CONGRATULATIONS, MS. LANG! YOU'RE JUST EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
REALLY? BUT I'VE NEVER HAD A JOB LIKE THIS BEFORE! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BEING A JUDGE'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT!
YOU, MS. LANG, ARE EXPERIENCED IN LIFE. I CAN TELL THAT YOU WORK WELL WITH PEOPLE AND THIS IS NOTHING IF NOT A "PEOPLE JOB"!
SURELY YOU'LL ACCEPT THE POSITION?
ONLY IF YOU CALL ME LANA, JUDGE... WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
KRAMER. JUDGE KRAMER. AND WELCOME TO MY STAFF.
I HAVE THE FEELING YOU'RE JUST WHAT WE NEED AROUND HERE!
end ?

SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY OF QURAC:
I JUST PLOWED THROUGH FIVE-FOOT THICK CONCRETE, GENTLEMEN.
KA-TH

NOT TRYING TO *HIDE* ANYTHING DOWN HERE, ARE YOU ?

WHU--?

LET ME TAKE THESE GUNS FFROM YOU--!

?

--- THEY WON'T HAVE MUCH EFFECT, EXCEPT TO *ANNOY* ME!

GEEZ--! *SUPERMAN!*

SHALL WE SIT DOWN AND *TALK* ?

I'M *DYING* TO KNOW WHAT YOU AMERICANS ARE DOING IN AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER IN QURAC!

DON'T SAY A *WORD*--ANY OF YOU!

NOW, I'VE COME A LONG WAY FOR A FEW SIMPLE ANSWERS--SO DON'T TICK ME OFF HERE!

CASE IN POINT--! SOLDIER, DON'T EVEN THINK IT...

I-UH, HAD AN ITCH...

RIGHT. ON YOUR TRIGGER FINGER.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SON? TALK TO ME!

I GOT NO BEEF WITH YOU--WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE--"TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY!" RIGHT?

I'M NO COUNTRY'S LAP-DOG.

I KNOW YOU THREE ARE FREELANCE, AND THAT YOU'RE CONNECTED WITH FORMER PRESIDENT MARLO'S REGIME HERE IN QURAC...

ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS THE LOCATION OF MARLO'S META-HUMAN RESEARCH FACILITY.

WE'VE BEEN TOLD IT WAS SHUT DOW--

BE QUIET--REMEMBER YOUR OATH, SOLDIER!

I HAVEN'T THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST YOU, BUT GET THIS: I WILL FIND THE FACILITY EVENTUALLY...

...AND, ALONG THE WAY, I'LL EXPOSE THIS AND A LOT OF OTHER "SONS OF LIBERTY" HIDEOUTS AS WELL! START MARKING TIME!

BLOOD AND SAND

TOM GRUMMETT
PENCILLER
TREVOR SCOTT
INKER
JERRY ORDWAY
WRITER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN
LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND
ASSOC. EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN
HEAD POTENTATE

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA...

JUST MINUTES AGO, THE UNITED STATES SENATE PASSED THE CONTROVERSIAL GUN CONTROL BILL...

WITH ALL THE RESOURCES THE "SONS OF LIBERTY" COMMAND, WE HAVE TO GET *THIS* NEWS FROM CNN!

CALM DOWN, HARRIMAN--WE DON'T KNOW HOW OUR NEOPHYTE SENATOR VOTED YET.

... THE DECIDING VOTE CAME FROM SENATOR PETE ROSS OF KANSAS, WHO WAS APPOINTED TO THE LATE BARTON CALDWELL'S SEAT.

FIREARMS BILL

DAMMIT, KRAMER! HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US!

I KNOW I'M GOING TO GET SOME HEAT FROM MY HUNTING FRIENDS BACK HOME IN SMALLVILLE FOR THIS...

...BUT THIS BILL DEMANDED A GUT REACTION, AND I STAND BY MY DECISION.

I THOUGHT I IMPRESSED UPON MR. ROSS THE *WAY* WE WANTED HIM TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE, JUDGE!

PERHAPS WE NEED TO MAKE IT MORE CLEAR TO HIM THAT *NOTHING* IS *FREE* IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, HARRIMAN.

THAT JOB WE ARRANGED FOR HIS FIANCÉE LANA LANG, IN MY OFFICE, *HAS A PRICE!*

WE'LL HAVE TO USE *HER* AS *LEVERAGE* ON FUTURE VOTES.

SENATOR ROSS *NEEDS* TO *KNOW* THAT THE "SONS OF LIBERTY" REPRESENT THE DREAM FOR A BETTER AMERICA--

--AN AMERICA IN WHICH A LOYAL *FRIEND* TO US MAY *FLOURISH* AND *PROSPER*...

"... WHILE OUR ENEMIES WITHER AWAY AND DIE IN ANONYMITY.

WELL, THAT WASN'T A TOTAL WASHOUT. THOSE SOLDIERS IN THAT BUNKER CONFIRMED TWO THINGS FOR ME.

THE QURACIS, WITH OUTSIDE HELP, MOVED THEIR RESEARCH FACILITY OUT OF THERE A LONG TIME AGO...

... AND THE SONS OF LIBERTY ORGANIZATION IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED.'

I THOUGHT I SHUT THEM DOWN A WHILE BACK, WHEN I EXTRADITED PRESIDENT MARLO TO THE 'STATES.*

*IN SUPERMAN II 53

APPARENTLY, SPLINTER GROUPS SURVIVED THE SHAKE-UP TO CONTINUE THEIR MISSION-- WHATEVER *THAT* IS!

TIME TO CHECK IN WITH MY TRAVEL COMPANIONS AT THE HOTEL...

"... IN JORDAN."

I'M EMIL HAMILTON, AND THIS IS--

--MR. JAWAD AL GURDAN AND I HAVE MET *BEFORE*, PROFESSOR!*

LOOKING *GOOD*, JAWAD-- LOST A FEW POUNDS, EH?

MY PHYSICIANS STRONGLY ADVISED ME TO, JIMMY!

WHERE IS CLARK? HE'S NOW *ENGAGED* TO BE MARRIED?

HE CASUALLY DROPPED THAT INTO ONE OF THE MANY LETTERS WE'VE EXCHANGED SINCE YOUR LAST VISIT.

*IN ADVENTURES #443

THE REASON YOU'RE HERE HAS TO DO WITH MY WRITING CLARK OF THE *UNUSUAL* HAPPENINGS IN THE DESERT HERE!

(YOU HAVE HEARD STORIES OF MY SISTER, TEHRA ?)

OH MY ! YOU'RE THE ONE CALLED HUSQUE, NO ?

H-HAVE WE *MET* BEFORE ? YOU *SEEM* FAMILIAR TO ME.

HUSQUE IS THE BROTHER OF THE GIRL WHO DRAGGED US INTO THE DESERT LAST TIME I WAS HERE, JAWAD.*

*ALSO IN ADVENTURES #443

AH, YES.

WELL, WHAT I WROTE CLARK ABOUT WAS THE RECENT SIGHTINGS BY TOURISTS AT THE ANCIENT CITY OF PETRA--

"--OF A GIRL'S FORM, SEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF FREAK WINDSTORMS--"

--AND *THAT* GOT ME THINKING ABOUT HUSQUE'S SISTER, TEHRA.

BOTH JIMMY AND SUPERMAN WITNESSED HER USING THAT SAME *POWER* IN THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH THE *EXILES*.

‹ SHE *IS* HERE. ›

JAWAD'S ARRANGED TRANSPORTATION FOR US INTO THE DESERT, SO WE CAN GET A CLOSER LOOK!

WHAT OF SUPERMAN ? WILL HE MEET US AT THE *RUINS* ?

SUPERMAN PROMISED TO WATCH OVER US ALL, BUT INDICATED HE HAD *OTHER* MATTERS TO ATTEND TO AS WELL.

I *MARVEL* AT THE FRIENDSHIPS YOU ALL HAVE WITH *HIM*.'

YEP, IT'S PRETTY *GREAT* TO HANG WITH THE *MAN*, JAWAD.

SAY, JIMMY, YOU'D BETTER HAND ME THAT SUNSCREEN LOTION.

GOOD LUCK, MY FRIENDS--AND REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS I GAVE YOU TO THE RUINS OF PETRA.

WE WILL, THANKS. SEE YOU TOMORROW!

GOODBYE, CIVILIZATION--HELLO, *ADVENTURE!*

JUST REMEMBER, JIMMY--YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE PICTURES, AND I'M HERE TO WRITE A STORY!

I'D LIKE TO *AVOID* ADVENTURE FOR A CHANGE, AND JUST GET HUSQUE REUNITED WITH TEHRA!

HECK, THE DAILY PLANET DIDN'T EVEN *PAY OUR WAY* HERE! LEX LUTHOR JUNIOR *MADE THAT HAPPEN!*

WE FLEW ON HIS *PERSONAL* JET.

AND HE MADE A WELL-PLACED *CALL* TO THE *ROYAL FAMILY* OF JORDAN TO CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE IN GETTING US HERE!

I'D LIKE TO KNOW *WHY.*

MY OWN THEORY IS--

--MAYBE HUSQUE'S STORY STRUCK A NERVE IN HIM!

AND THEN AGAIN, MAYBE LEX IS TRYING TO DO A *GOOD* TURN FOR SOMEBODY--TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT A *LOUSE* HIS FATHER WAS!

THE QUEENSLAND SUBURB OF METROPOLIS, EIGHT HOURS EARLIER.

RON, IS THAT YOU?

HI, MOM. DAD DIDN'T MAKE IT THROUGH L.A. LAW AGAIN?

YOUR FATHER WORKS HARD, RON. DID YOU EAT ANY SUPPER?

HAD A SANDWICH AT WORK.

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING LATE ALL WEEK, RON.

ROBERTA?

THEY'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU, WORKING YOU LIKE A HORSE!

AND NEWSTIME HIRED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE *BLACK*, RONNY.

I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THIS AGAIN, ROBERTA-- WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE.

MY GROUP HAS STATISTICS, BROTHER, AND THEY SHOW THAT NEWSTIME'S ONLY GOT A HANDFUL OF MINORITIES ON STAFF--

GIVE THEM SOME CREDIT FOR TRYING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT!

YOU ARE *SO NAIVE*, RONNY TROUPE!

AND *YOU* ARE INFURIATING!

--AND *ALL* WERE HIRED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, *INCLUDING* YOU!

HUSH!

I INFURIATE YOU BECAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT!

OUR GROUP IS GOING TO PICKET YOUR PRECIOUS NEWSTIME MAGAZINE, TO GET MORE MINORITY JOBS, RONNY!

PICKET? HOW'S THAT GOING TO HELP THINGS?

PICKETING, ROBERTA? I WON'T HAVE YOU GETTING ARRESTED AND I CERTAINLY WON'T HAVE YOU JEOPARDIZE YOUR BROTHER'S JOB...

"... MR. COLLIN THORNTON HAS GIVEN YOUR BROTHER A CHANCE TO MAKE IT AS A JOURNALIST. DON'T RUIN IT FOR HIM!

I KNOW CIRCULATION IS DOWN, MORT.

WE'RE IN A RECESSION-- DON'T YOU READ OUR MAGAZINE?

IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE MONEY THAN THE INSURANCE ADJUSTERS GAVE US, TO REBUILD NEWSTIME? SO WHAT?

IF WE NEED MORE MONEY, WE'LL GET MORE MONEY, DAMMIT!

HELLO. COLLIN THORNTON, FOR LEX LUTHOR, JUNIOR.

I SEE-- WELL, THE METROPOLITAN OPERA COMPANY IS FIRST-RATE. TELL HIM I WILL CALL IN THE MORNING.

DRIVER-- TAKE ME BACK TO MY RESIDENCE. I'M CALLING IT A NIGHT.

SURE IS *HOT* BACK HERE, MR. KENT--HOW ABOUT BLASTING THE AIR CONDITIONER FOR US?

HUH? OH, SORRY, YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING SOONER!

DON'T DO IT ON MY ACCOUNT, KENT-- I DON'T LIKE THE COLD BLOWING UP MY KHAKIS.

I'LL PUT IT ON *LOW*, EMIL.

AS SUPERMAN, I CAN STAND THE HEAT OF A *VOLCANO* WITHOUT DISCOMFORT.

SOMETIMES I FORGET THAT OTHERS *AREN'T* QUITE SO TOLERANT OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES!

:SIGH: I'LL HOLD MY KNEES TOGETHER.

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT *HOW* TO BREAK FROM THE GROUP, ONCE WE GET TO PETRA, SO I CAN LOOK FOR THAT *RESEARCH* LAB!

IF TEHRA, AND *OTHER* EXILES *WERE* HERE, THE META-HUMAN FACILITY WOULD BE *MIGHTY* INTERESTED IN *THEM*!

THERE IT *IS*-- THE ANCIENT RUINS OF PETRA!

CHECK IT OUT--IT'S *CARVED* FROM THE MOUNTAINSIDE!

WHOA, PROFESSOR! IT'S A *MONSTER SANDSTORM*, HEADING THIS WAY!

KEEP *CALM*, EVERYBODY-- WE'RE *SO* CLOSE THAT OUR BEST BET FOR *COVER* IS AT THE *RUINS*-- *HOLD TIGHT*!

GOLLY-- IS ANYONE LOOKING BEHIND US EXCEPT ME?

GOOD GOLLY. I DON'T THINK THIS VAN'S GOING TO GET US THERE!

:GA-ACK: :PTUI!:

TRY TO COVER YOUR EYES AND MOUTHS, OR THIS SAND WILL HAVE YOU BLINDED AND CHOKING IN NO TIME, GUYS!

GRAB HOLD, PROFESSOR.

<THERE IS A DOORWAY DIRECTLY AHEAD.>

WOW! I'M GLAD SOMEONE CAN SEE IN THIS MUCK!

FOLLOW ME-- I CAN SEE WHAT HUSQUE'S LOOKING AT.

<I CAN FEEL TEHRA'S PRESENCE IN THIS...>

KEEP CLOSE, HUSQUE--WE'LL FIND YOUR SIS *AFTER* THIS STORM CLEARS!

SLOWING DOWN, KENT?

YES, GO AHEAD OF ME...

...I WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR FRIEND BACK THERE DOESN'T *DESERT* US.

AND I WANT A CONVENIENT WAY TO GET AWAY AND CHANGE INTO SUPERMAN!

GET THE HECK *IN* HERE, MR. KENT!

HUSQUE--LISTEN TO ME. USE YOUR *POWERS* TO MANIPULATE THE STONES AROUND HERE INTO A *WALL*, TO PROTECT US...

...FROM THE STAR-- *YEOWW!*

HATE TO MAKE THEM *WORRY*, BUT IT'S THE *ONLY* WAY.

<"SHE" HAS HIM...>

MR. *KENT!*

WE HAVE TO *SAVE* HIM!

<WE WILL WAIT OUT THE STORM.>

OMIGOSH-- I FORGOT ABOUT MY *SIGNAL WATCH!*

EEEE EEEE EEEE

"SUPERMAN CAN HELP CLARK!"

THAT'S JIM'S WATCH.

I GUESS SUPERMAN WILL HAVE TO "RESCUE" CLARK KENT ONCE AGAIN!

AFTER I GET TO THE BOTTOM OF *THIS*, OF COURSE.

THIS *GALE* IS MAKING IT HARD FOR ME TO FOCUS MY *X-RAY* VISION ON ANYTHING BUT-- *A-HA!*

I CAN MAKE OUT A *FIGURE* AT THE VERY *APEX* OF THIS TWISTER!

IF THAT *IS* TEHRA...

...SHE'S IN FOR A LITTLE--

--SURPRISE!

HELLO, TEHRA.

STOP THIS WINDSTORM, AND LET'S *TALK!*

WHAT ARE-- *YOU??*

IS THIS YET ANOTHER *RUSE* TO TRICK ME?

NO--NO TRICK, TEHRA--

BLAST! SHE'S TELEPORTED!

BEGONE FROM THIS SACRED PLACE. TEHRA KNOWS NOT *WHY* YOU SEEK HER...

...NOR DOES SHE CARE, IT SEEMS!

WELL, SHE CAN THROW THE WHOLE DESERT AT ME, FOR ALL IT MATTERS.

"I'VE GOT TO MAKE HER LISTEN!"

UH-OH--FLASHLIGHT'S FADING AGAIN!

TRY JIGGLING IT, PROFESSOR!

WELL, HEY--THAT DID THE TRICK.

WHAT'S THIS?

< THE SUPERMAN DIDN'T APPEAR--AND THE STORM CONTINUES.>

I HEAR THE WIND TOO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SUPES DIDN'T SHOW...

< HUSQUE IS SORRY TO UPSET YOU, RED-HAIR.>

KENT'S BOUND TO BE ALL RIGHT, JIM.

SUPERMAN WOULDN'T IGNORE YOUR CALL FOR HELP--HE'S PROBABLY JUST GOT HIS HANDS FULL!

YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY--SAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, EMIL?

WAIT!

SHOULDN'T WE WAIT BACK BY THE ENTRANCE?

I RECALL YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE, JIM?

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

WHAT'S MAKING THAT SOUND?

LET'S HAVE A--

EEEEEP! BUGS!

< NATURALLY. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THE REPTILES TO CONSUME?>

REPTILES? UHH-- LIKE-- SNAKES?

DO NOT LAG, RED-HAIR-- EMIL HAMILTON IS GETTING AHEAD OF US.

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH HSSST

WHOOPS!

WHAT WAS THAT? A SNAKE?

HUSQUE? IS THE PROFESSOR OKAY?

HUSQUE? EMIL?

C'MON, GUYS-- THIS IS NOT FUNNY!

HEL-LOOO?

OMIGOSH! PROFESSOR! DID YOU FALL? CAN YOU HEAR ME, EITHER OF YOU?

DIS-GUSTING!

I'VE GOT THE LIGHT NOW, GUYS.

YELL, OR AT LEAST MAKE SOME KIND OF NOISE, SO I CAN FIND YOU.

CRUNCH CRUNCH

IS THAT YOU- EEEYAAAH!

"BOO."

I HAVE HAD JUST ABOUT *ENOUGH* OF THIS PLAYING AROUND!

TEHRA SEES NO VISITORS--SHE ONLY EXISTS TO PROTECT THIS MOUNTAINSIDE, HUMAN!

HERE'S SOME OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE RIGHT BACK AT YOU!

FWOOOSH

I SHALL :'OOOOHHH!':

SORRY TO DO THAT, TEHRA, BUT THIS NONSENSE *HAD* TO STOP!

DON'T YOU *RECOGNIZE* ME? I'M A FRIEND.

STAY AWAY--DO NOT--*TOUCH*--ME.

LET ME *HELP* YOU UP...

I *KNOW* YOU--SUPERMAN. DO *NOT* TOUCH ME!

IT WAS NOT *MY* WISH TO ATTACK YOU. I DO THE BIDDING OF *OTHERS*--TO KEEP *ALL INTRUDERS* AWAY FROM THESE RUINS!

IT IS *PUNISHMENT* FOR TELEPORTING MY PEOPLE OUT OF THE WORLD OF THE EXILES--FOR ABANDONING HUSQUE TO THE VOID!

YOUR *BROTHER* IS THE REASON I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU, TEHRA.

HE IS THE REASON MY COMRADES AND I ACCESSED THE *DIMENSIONAL VORTEX.*

IT WAS NOT LONG AFTER I TELEPORTED *YOU* AND THE OLSEN OUT OF OUR WORLD.

"OUR WORLD WAS IN *CHAOS* AFTER THE DEATH OF OUR EMPEROR, AND THE FIVE OF US SOUGHT TO ESCAPE THE MADNESS.

"YOUR WORLD SEEMED THE LOGICAL PLACE FOR US TO START ANEW, AND WE WERE EAGER FOR CONTACT WITH YOUR KIND.

"AFTER WANDERING FOR MANY CYCLES IN THE DESERT, WE WERE FOUND BY SOME MEN WE LATER LEARNED TO BE SOLDIERS.

"THEY DISABLED US WITH SMOKE THAT PUT US TO SLEEP.

"I WOKE TO THE SIGHT OF ONE OF THEIR DOCTORS TORTURING MY COMRADE...

"HIS DEATH-SCREAMS YET ECHO INSIDE MY MIND."

MY FATE WAS TO BE *CONTROLLED* BY THIS *IMPLANT* AT THE BASE OF MY SPINE. SHOULD I DISOBEY THEIR DIRECTIVES...

...THEY WILL USE IT TO END *MY* LIFE!

HMMM-- IT *ISN'T* THAT SOPHISTICATED A DEVICE. I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP, IF YOU REMAIN PERFECTLY *STILL.*

I CAN *PINPOINT* MY HEAT VISION TO SEVER THE CONNECTIONS...

"THIS MAY PAIN YOU..."

LET HIM ALONE, YOU JERK!

HUSQUE, USE YOUR *POWERS*-- DON'T JUST GIVE UP, MAN!

PITY HIS *RESTRAINTS* PREVENT HIS HANDS FROM *TOUCHING* ANYTHING!

(I HAVE *SEEN* YOUR KIND, SCIENTIST-- IN THE WORLD OF THE EXILES!)

SHOOT! I'M GOING TO KEEP BUZZING SUPES 'TIL THE BATTERIES WEAR DOWN, EMIL!

KEEP AT IT, BOY-- WE'RE NOT FINISHED *YET!*

EMIL HAMILTON-- LOOK TO YOUR *FEET*...

HUH? WHO SAID THAT?

QUIET-- *PLEASE*-- I AM SPEAKING *TELEPATHICALLY.*

TELL *HIM* THAT YOU ARE VERSED IN THE *MATRIXING* PROCESS.

TELL HIM YOU WILL PERFORM THE *PROCEDURE* ON *HIM.*

DO NOT LOOK PUZZLED-- JUST *SAY* IT.

I--UH, AM *VERSED* IN THE MATRIXING PROCEDURE-- WANT ME TO *SHOW*-- I MEAN *PERFORM* IT ON YOU?

YOU ADDRESSED ME?

WHAT DO YOU *KNOW* OF *MATRIXING*?

I KNOW THAT I : UH : COULD IMPROVE YOU...

SHOW ME-- IMPROVE THIS!

PERFORM THE MATRIX-SCAN ON THE FLAME-HAIRED ONE AND ME!

YOU'RE REALLY ONE OF THEM--ONE OF THE PURE-BLOOD EXILES!

NO KIDDING, EMIL! LAST TIME I WAS IN THEIR WORLD, EVERYBODY WANTED ME FOR THEIR MATRIX-PARTNER!

A GENETIC SPLICING OF HUMAN AND EXILE-- OF COURSE! THAT'S WHAT HUSQUE AND THAT FLASHPOINT CHARACTER ARE!

WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT EARLI-- SAY!

TEHRA? YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WILL TO LIVE? THE EXPLOSIVE IMPLANT YOU CARRY IS CONTROLLED BY ME!

JIMMY-- EMIL-- THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE!

QUICKLY, SUPERMAN-- GET YOUR FRIENDS TO SAFETY!

TIISH TIISH

WHAT IN HECK TOOK YOU SO LONG, BUDDY?

SORRY, JIM, BUT I'VE BEEN KIND OF BUSY.

YOU MUST RESCUE THOSE OTHER CHAPS IN THAT PIT!

HURRY, FOLKS!

JIM--SEE THAT HUSQUE IS--

GOT IT, SUPES!

WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE ONE OF YOUR *OWN* GUYS WOULD *TORTURE* YOU LIKE THAT!

(MY FRIEND, MY WORLD IS FILLED WITH VIOLENCE, AS IS *YOURS*.)

TEHRA--LET ME *HELP*--

MY VORTEX WILL TAKE YOU THREE TO SAFETY--THIS IS *MY* FIGHT.

BRING BACK THE *RED-HAIR*--OR I WILL *DETONATE* YOUR IMPLANT, DESTROYING YOU AND YOUR BROTHER!

THIS?

YOU REMOVED IT?

CLIC

NO MATTER--IN YOUR *HAND*, IT IS STILL *DEADLY*!

I'D RATHER *YOU* HAD IT!

AIEEEEE! YOU *WITCH*! YOU'VE SEALED YOUR OWN FATE AS WELL!

HUSQUE, DO IT *QUICKLY*!

ARRRGHH!

(THIS FLOOR MATERIAL SHOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PROTECTION.)

THAT SCREAM--!

HE *DESERVES* DEATH--FOR WHAT HE DID TO ALL OF US!

TEHRA'S IMPLANT!!

KA-THOOM!

OH, POOP! MY ELBOWS AND KNEES ARE GOING TO BE AS BANGED-UP AS ANY TEN-YEAR-OLD'S!

FORGET THAT, PROFESSOR--WHAT ABOUT HUSQUE AND TEHRA, AND THOSE OTHER CHARACTERS?

SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE TELEPORTED BEFORE THE EXPLOSION?

WELL, UH--I--DON'T KNOW! HUSQUE COULD HAVE--

X-RAY VISION IS SHOWING THE LAB BURIED UNDER TONS OF ROCK!

THEY COULD BE ALIVE UNDER ALL OF THAT--WAIT!

AHH, THE FLAME-HAIR WAITS FOR YOUR ATTENTIONS, TEHRA.

HUSH, ZANDER!

<AIEE! I WILL TAKE MY CHANCES ALONE IN THE DESERT!>

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR!

<BY ALL THAT IS HOLY--HAVE MERCY ON ME, GREAT SUPERMAN!>

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE EXPLANATION--IN ENGLISH, LIKE I HEARD YOU SPEAK IN YOUR LAB!

F-F-FORGIVE ME, GREAT ONE--I HAVE BEEN THROUGH MUCH IN THESE PAST MONTHS!

I WAS A VICTIM AS MUCH AS THE OTHERS, OF THAT MADMAN!

THERE WERE *TWO* OF US WHO TOILED IN THE META-HUMAN RESEARCH FACILITY UNDER PRESIDENT MARLO'S DIRECTIVES...

...BHANI AND I--THOUGH *HE* SOON FELL VICTIM TO THE MATRIX EXPERIMENTS!

(HE SPEAKS IN *HALF-TRUTHS*)

SOON AFTER WE WERE BROUGHT HERE, THEY ENLISTED SKELAZ, OF OUR GROUP, TO HELP THEM IN THEIR EXPERIMENTS.

ONE DOCTOR *DIED* TRYING TO *MATRIX* WITH SKELAZ. *THIS* ONE *WOULD* HAVE BEEN *NEXT*.

WHY WAS HE SO *BENT* ON *ALTERING* HIMSELF?

(*WE* ARE *HYBRIDS*, THE PRODUCT OF *EXILE* AND *HUMAN*--GENETICALLY ENHANCED THROUGH THE MATRIXING.)

(SKELAZ CONSIDERED HIMSELF *INFERIOR* DUE TO HIS PURE BLOODLINE.)

WELL *THAT'S A TWIST!*

WHAT WILL YOU AND THE OTHERS DO *NOW*?

HUSQUE AND I HAVE *LONG* BEEN APART--WE HAVE *MUCH* TO DISCUSS.

WE WISH TO REMAIN APART FROM YOUR KIND--THE THOUGH FLAME-HAIR MAY VISIT ME *ANYTIME*.

I'LL CHECK IN ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME. GOODBYE.

(MANY THANKS, SUPERMAN.)

WAIT A COTTON-PICKING MINUTE--WHAT ABOUT OUR *MINIBUS*, AND THAT CLARK KENT FELLOW?

OH, PROFESSOR--I THINK HE SAID SOMETHING EARLIER THAT HE LEFT CLARK BACK AT THE VAN!

POOR GUY MUST BE WORRIED TO DEATH OVER US--LET'S HIGH-TAIL IT...

"...'SIDES, THIS TEHRA BABE IS GIVING ME THE EYE LIKE CRAZY, AND THAT'S HOW I GOT INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!"

OH, *SURE*--SHOW UP WHEN I'M ALMOST *DONE* SHOVELING THIS HEAP OUT OF A DUNE!

WHAT'D I *MISS*? WHERE'S HUSQUE?

BETTER LET JIMMY TELL YOU, KENT.

IT ALL WENT BY SO FAST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A *THING* THAT HAPPENED TODAY!

NEXT WEEK IN ACTION COMICS #677, SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL FACE OFF--WITH LEX LUTHOR II IN THE MIDDLE! AND THEN NEXT MONTH IN ADVENTURES, SUPERMAN GOES HEAD TO HEAD AGAINST--OH, JUST BE HERE, OKAY?

end

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 053 Teamwork

"Teamwork", first appeared in Justice League Spectacular issue #1, released February, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Gerard Jones (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Ron Randall (penciller), Dan Jurgens (inker), Randy Elliott (inker), Rick Burchett (inker), Ron Randall (inker)

"Man of the Hour", first appeared in Action Comics issue #676, released February, 1992
Roger Stern (writer), Art Thibert (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Art Thibert (inker), Denis Rodier (inker)

"Born Once Again", first appeared in Justice League America issue #61, released February, 1992
(writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Rick Burchett (penciller), Rick Burchett (inker)

"Pawns", first appeared in Justice League America issue #62, released March, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Rick Burchett (inker)

"Mistaken Identity", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #11, released March, 1992
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Another Panic in the Sky!", first appeared in Superman issue #67, released March, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (inker)

"Blood and Sand", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #490, released March, 1992
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Trevor Scott (inker)

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